

THE
GENTILE
CRAFT.

The second Part.

Being a most merrie and pleasant
Historie, not altogether vnprofitable nor
any way hurtfull: verie fit to passe away the te-
diousnesse of the long winter evenings.

By T. D.

Newly corrected and augmented.

Hand curo invidiam.



LONDON,
Printed by Elizabeth Parslow, dwelling neere
Christ Church, 1639.

THE
GENTLE
CRAFT

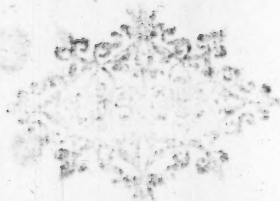
The second Part.

Being a most meritorious and pleasant
History not only of the most famous
and noblest of the English Nation
but also of the most famous and noblest
of the English Nation



Printed by J. G. Smith, at the British Museum.

London: 1851.



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To the Master and Ward.
worshipfull company of the Court
in London, all continuance of health and
fect brotherly affection.



Nce more hath good will embold-
me, to present vnto your Worships, ...
worthles labour, to manifest the good af-
fection I beare to this fraternity: and fin-
ding, you lent a gentle looke on the first
part of this History, I have beene the more
bolde to proffer you the second: for having bound my selfe
by promise to performe it: and you perhaps clayming pro-
mise as a debt, expecting payment, I bent all my body, to
keepe touch: whereupon I tender this small trifle vnto you,
onely craving at your worships hands, a good opinion of
my poore endeavours. And albeit this pamphlet doth not
minister matter worthy your grave view: yet in regard of
the subject, I trust you will deigne to esteeme it fith so well
as I could, though not so well as I would, I have sought
herein to procure your delight: and although you finde
not all the men spoken of, which is promised in the first
part, yet thinke it no faintnes in me, but fault of good in-
struction: and againe, for as much as these men here men-
tioned, were all of this Citie (whose story grew longer
then I supposed) and the other of the country: I thought
good so to breake off, and to defer their story to another
time, when I may more perfectly speake thereof. In the
meane space I commend your Worships to the protection
of the most highett.

Your Worships in all he may.
T.D.



To the Courteous Readers
health.



Entle Reader, you that vouchsafe to cast courteous lookes into this rude Pamphlet: expect not herein to find any matter of light value, curiously pen'd with pickt words, or choise phrases, but a quaint and plaine discourse, best fitting matters of merriment, seeing wee have herein no cause to talke of Courtiers or Scholars. Notwithstnding, if you find your selfe over charged with melancholy, you may perhaps have here a fit medicine to purge that humour, by conferring in this place with Doctor *Burke*: or if you meet with round *Robin*, he may chance ryme it away. I tell you among Shoemakers is some solace, as you shall see by Tom *Drums* entertainment, and other mid merry pranks playd by the Greene-King of S. Martins. If that will not suffice, you may in meeting with Anthony now-nov, have such a fit of mirth, with his firk-ing Fiddle, that it shall be a great cause to expell choler. And so I leave you to your owne liking, whether you will enter to see this sport or no: stand backe I pray, roome for a Gentleman, for you cannot come in vnder a groat.

Containing the History of Richard Casteler: and the first of his love



The lovely Maide of the Cittie of Westminster, noting what a good a husband Richard Casteler was and seeing how diligently he followed his businesse, judged in the end he would prove a rich man: for which cause many bore unto him very good affection: & few there was that wished not themselves to be his wife: insomuch that he hauing the custome of all the pretty Wenches in the Cittie, by that meanes knew the length of every Maideens foot so well, that he about all oider best pleased them. On the Sundayes when he came into the Church, the Maide eyes were so firmly fixed on him, that he could neither looke forward, backward, nor on any side, but that he should be sure to haue a winke of one, a smile of another the third would giue a nod: and to be briefe, they would all cast on him such gracions looks, that it was easie to guesse by their outward countenance, their inward good will.

And when in his Holydaies affire he pass along the streets, the Maideens (after their businesse was done) standing at their Masters doores and spying him, would say thus one to another: Now verily there goes a proper citill young man, wise & thristy: yea such a one as in time will prove wondrous weal by, and without all doubt, will come to great credit & preferment: these and the like wordes would they vse of him continually, whereby he had among them such a generall good opinion, that as he stood a dayes at his cutting boord, he should be sure to haue twenty curses made him in an houre, by Maideens that pass up and downe: some would bestow on him dainty

Sweet nosegayes, of the fairest flowers they could find, and other
some would bring him handkerchers of Cambrick, and others
such like labours, well bewa'ying their friendship to wards him.

But among many that secretly affected him, I will onely tell
of twaine, because aboue all the rest, their merriments bee
onely remaine in memorie, the one of them was called Margaret,
of the spread-Eagle, but more commonly knowne by the name
of long Meg of Westminster: The other was a proper neat wench
named Gillian of the George, both of them as wily as they were
witty, who among all the waiters in Westminster were re-
puted to be the best serbants: having therefore good wages, they
maintained themselves gallantly, and therewithall so honestly,
that no man could gup them with bad living, though af-
terward it fell out otherwise, as in this historie you shall heare.

Margaret was a maiden borne in Lancashire, in height and
proportion of body, passing the ordinary stature of women, but
there-withall very comely, and of amiable countenance, her
strength was agreeable to her stature and her courage as great as
them both: she was of a quicke capacitie, and pleasant disposi-
tion, of a liberall heart, and such a one as would be sodainly an-
gry, and soone pleased, being readier to revenge her wrongs by
weapons, then by words: and therein did she differ from the na-
ture of other women, because she could not abide much babling;
and so be full was she of her behaviour in her panger years,
that her good properties far exceeding her position, she was loved
by others, but would be loved by none, so the man whom she
most loved, least thought upon her. And albeit she manifested
her good will by others meanes, yet Sir Richard little regard it,
having his mind nothing bent into marriage, by meanes where-
of Margaret grew into such sad conceits as changed her chery
cheekes into a greene wan countenance: in-somuch that every one
wondered to see her pensiveness.

At last it chanced that Margaret having occasion to go into
London, it was her good fortune to meet with Gillian of the
George, whom her mistress had sent thither to buy Comets, and
Carawages, with others other sweet meates, so that they had
a banquet bespoken by others gallant Courtiers, which that night

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pointed to come thither but so soon as Margaret spied her, she smiled, saying: Gillian now in good saynes welmet. (If thou beest met a maid) and ill met (quoth she) not meeting so good a maid as my selfe. Thus said Margaret: it is good for us to thinke well of our selves, for there is enough that I thinke ill of vs: may I tell thee them quoth Gillian that thinke a ill of me, and I respect as little their speech, as they do my profit. For a woman with a good life, feares no man with an evil tongue: If you be so hot quoth Margaret where the wind blowes so cold, what wilt thou be by that time supper is ready, where the fire will be as fierie as your choller is great: and mistake mee not good Gillian, though I said men thinke ill of vs, I meane not thereby that any goe about to blacken our good names, but I suppose they thinke not so well of us as they might do that doe not love vs as well as to marry vs.

Thus said Gillian. If that be all, I am at a good point; for though my maiden-head be somewhat burdensome to beare, yet I had rather keepe it, then bestow it on a bad husband: but though I say it, though I be but a poore wench, I have choise of husbands enough, and such as I am assured in my conscience, would both love me well, and keepe me gallantly. Wherefore then doe you not marry quoth Margaret: in my opinion it is the most pleasant life that may be. When a woman shall have her husband come home and speake in this sort vnto her. Now now wife: how dost thou my sweet-heart? what wilt thou have? or what dost thou lacke? and therewithall kindly embracing her, giues her a gentle kisse, saying: speake my prettie mouse, wilt thou haue a cup of Claret-wine, White-wine, or Sacke to suppe? and then perhaps he caries vnto her the leg of a Capon, or the wing of a Chicken, and if there be one bit better then other, she hath the choise of it: And if the chauce be long for any thing by and-by it is sent for with all possible speed, and nothing is thought so deare to doe her good. At last having well refreshed themselves she sets her silver whistle to her mouth, and calles her maid to cleare the boord: then going to the fire, he sets her on his knee, and wantonly stroking her cheek, amourosly bee cheekes her under the chin, fetching many stealing southernes at her rabie lips.

and

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and so soone as he heares the Bell ring eight a clocke, he calles her to goe to bed with him. O how sweet doe these words sound in a womans eares? But when they are once close betwaine a paire of sheetes, O Gillian then, then: why what of that quoth she: say nothing saith Margaret, but they sleep soundly all night. Truly quoth Gillian there be many wiues, but few that meete with such kind husbands: but seeing you aske me why I marry not, in troth Meg I would tell thee, if I had time to stay: but I leave I haue stood too long prattling here already, and therefore farewell good Meg: when I see thee againe, thou shalt knowe more of my mind.

say Gillian heare you quoth she, go but a little way with me, and I will goe home with you as straight as a line, for I haue nothing to buy but a sroze of Quinces, and couple of Bonagranets, and that shall be done in a trice: Gillian was contented for her good companies sake to stay awhile, and as soone as Margaret had made her market, they settled themselves to goe homeward, where by the way Gillian entred into this communication.

You did euen now demand a question of me, and very desirous you were to knowe why I did not marry when I was so well offered: Trust me Margaret, I take you to be my friend, which makes me the more willing to unfold my fancy, being as well perswaded of your secreesse as I am of your amity, and there-upon I am the more willing to make you copartner of my counsailes. Fire in strato will not be hidden, and the flames of affection will burst forth at length, though it be long kept vnder. And truly it is that I haue forsaken good matches, for I might haue had Passer Cornelius of the Guard if I would, who as you know is wealthy, and therewithall of very good conuerlation, yet there was one thing made me refuse his kind offer: what was that quoth Margaret, I pray thee tell: Quoth she, he loved not me so well but I loued another tenne times better, and therefore it is not good for handes to joyne, where hearts agree not. No Meg, no, there is a youth in our Creet that nearer touches my heart and better pleases my mind, notwithstanding he shall go namelesse, for it is an old prouerb, two may keep counsell if one be a way. say then quoth Meg, if you dare not trust me tell no-

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Further, notwithstanding I haue had credit in as great matters as yours, so many a man hath put his life in my hands, & found no hurt thereby, and as many women haue committed their secrets to me, as men haue ventured their bodies with me. So to Margaret, you are disposed to tell said Gillian. but sweare by thy Maidenhead that thou wilt neuer betray my liking, nor present me in my love, & I will shew thee all: nay he do not so quoth Margaret, shew not all so, shame, least more see it then my selfe, so, so may they blush at thy boldnes, and nothing commend thy modesty: but it is happy that I haue a maidenhead left to sweare by: I should know nothing of thee: no trust me quoth Gillian, so, such a one as cannot keepe her Maidenhead, will neuer keep a secret. and that made Katherine of the Crane to be such a blab: but now Meg I will proceed to the matter. What doe you thinke by Richard of the Rose, the wakeful cock of Westminster?

O he quoth Meg, is that the man: there is no reason I should thinke amiss of him that enery man commends: neuertheless, he is no body in respect of riches, being but a yong housekeeper of one yeares standing, a man God wot vnacquainted with the woordes guile, and to speake truth, nothing comparable to Master Corneliu. I will tell thee what quoth Gillian, that man which needeth neither to flatter with his friends, nor bozrow of his neighbours, hath rich: sufficient: and he is most poore that hath least wit, by which arguments I am able to proue, that the Cock is as weak, thy as he is wary, so, he will sure be beholding to no body, or to as few as he may, and it is al wayes to be noted that men of such mindes doe neuer proue beggers.

Margaret hearing Gillian so stoutly to take Richards part, perceived by her vehement speeches the great affection she boze to him, and finding that she was sick of her owne disease, Margaret sought means to remoue the cause of her grieffe, & thereby thrust her selfe into the greater sorrow: And the policy she used most herein, was to speake altogether in Richards dispraise, seeking thereby to dislodge her love, and the more firmly to plant her owne, whereupon she offered her mind in this sort.

Tell Gillian, saying you beare so good an opinion of Richard of
th:

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the Nose, I would not for a basket of Angels sick to disswade you: but because you request my opinion how I like the man, in troth I will tell thee my mind without fraud or flattery: I confesse that Richard is a gentle young man, courteous and kind, diligent about his businesse, and wary in his dealings, which argues good husbandry. Notwithstanding, I like not these ouer conceited fellows, of such greedy mindes, such penny fathers, and pinchpurses, that will not part from the paring of their nassles, nor the dropping of their nose, if they thought it would yeld them but the fourth part of a farthing. Tell me I pray thee what thou should a woman haue with such a charle, that would grudge at ebery halfe-penny that is laid out: that in a whole yeare would not leaue a farthing worth of mustard written in his booke: And such a one I feare will this Cocke prove, for we thinke he lookes with a hungry nose, and how soeuer thou think of him, I know not, but I verily feare though hee be a Cocke by name, hee will neuer prove a Cock of the game. Againe he is but a dwarfe in respect of a man, a shrike, a Wren, a hop of my thumb, such a one as a body might hide in a wrinkle of their buttocks.

Well Meg quoth shee, you are prouided to speake your pleasure, but should another thus missearme him, I would leaue her face: I tell thee true I had rather haue a winner then a waster, a sparer, then a prodigall spender: for when a man in his youth, hath gotten somethig with paine, he may the better spend it in his age with pleasure, and farre better it is he should be thought couetous, then carelesse, his stature and proportion of body pleases me well enough, for it is no matter how great he is, but how good he is.

But Margaret seeing our talk hath indured so long, that it hath brought vs both home, let vs at our parting be mindfull of our promises, to kepe secret whatsoeuer hath been said, for little knowes the young man the depth of my mind, and therefore would I kepe it close, till I saw some signe of good will proceeding from him, for it becommeth not maidens to be losers, though willingly they could wish to wed where they best fancie, and so farewell sweet Margaret. Adue gentle Gillian quoth Margaret, until our next meeting, when I hope I shall further under-
stand

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stand of your proceedings in your loue.

When Meg had thus vnderstood her mind, and saw how the matter went, she sought all meanes possible to prevent her, as hereafter shall be shewen.

CHAP. 2.

How Margaret requested Richard to the eating of a Posser at night: And how her Masters buttocks was scalded therewith.



It chanced that against Whitson-tide, Margaret stood in need of a new paire of Shoes: Therefore in a morning betimes she came to Richard of the Rose to bespeake them also: and the more to declare her kindnes, and to win his good will, she carried with her a bottle of excellent good Spuskadine, which one of the yeomen of the Kings wine seller had bestowed upon her: and to make it sell the better, she carried with her a dainty peece of powdered beefe, and the tender carcase of a cold Capon, and thus pleasantly began to greet him. All health to the kind cocks of Westminster, that with the Marke greates the Sun rising with a cherefull note, and mounts aboue many to the loue of pretty lasses. Tell me quoth the thou bonny Lad, wilt thou take the length of my foote, and make me a good payre of shoes against Sunday: that I will Margaret quoth he, therefore let me see thy foote: there is both my foote and leg said Meg, I am not ashamed to shew either of them, so; I am not legged like a Crane, nor footed like a Flie, and therewith lift up her cloathes to the knee, whereat Richard smiling said, a little higher Meg and shew all: whereupon she sodainly replied in this sort: soft Richard not so, so; I will tell thee one thing.

Euery Carter may reach to the garter,

A Shoemaker he may reach to the knee,

But he that creepes higher shall aske leave of me.

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Good reason quoth Richard; leaue is light, which being obtained a man may be bold without offence; but this onely is my griefe, I haue neuer a Last in my shop long enough for thy foot: then I would they were all fied quoth Meg. He that will be counted a good workman must haue soles to fit all persons, and I muse that you which stibe to be counted excellent, will want necessaries: Fie Richard fie, thou shouldest neuer be unprouided especially for women.

Well Meg quoth he, be contented, consider you are a woman of no ordinary making, but as in height thou overlookest all, so in the length of thy foot thou surpassest all: therefore I must haue a paire of Lasts made for the nonce, and that shall be done out of hand: I tell thee Dicke quoth shee, as high as I am, I am not so high as Pauls, nor is my foot so long as Grans-end Barge. Notwithstanding quoth Richard, a paire of Lasts to fit thy foot will cost as much as a hundred of sagots which will not be bought vnder ten groats: if they cost a crown quoth Meg, let me haue them; what man rather then I will goe without shoes I will beare the charge thy reaf my selfe, and in token that I mean troth, take there the money, thou shalt find me no Crinkler, but one that will reward cunning to the uttermost: I loue not to punch for a peny, or stand upon tearmes for two pence; if I find my shoes good I will not shrinke for a Shilling. In troth quoth Richard, franke customers are woorthy of good ware, and therefore Meg doubt not, for thou shalt haue as good a shoe as euer was drawne vpon womans foote. God a mercy for that sweet Dicke quoth shee, and being thou saist so, I will bestow this bottle of wine on thee to breakfast, beside that, I haue brought here a medicine that will pzoze as good a shooing-horne to drawe downe a cup of Puscadine as may be: and therewithall shee pluckt out her powdered beefe and her colde Capon; Richard seeing this, with thanks to Margaret for her meat, reacht out a couple of soyne scooles, and after that they had laid a cloth thereon, they downe did sit, at which time many merry speeches did passe betwene them. And at that very time there was in the same shoppe, amongst a great many other men a pleasant

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pleasant to my man called round Robin, being a trusty fellow
short and thicke, yet very active and pleasantly conceited: so sing-
ing he was held in high reputation among all the Shoemakers in
Westminster, and he would scarce speake any thing but in rime.
This lolly companion seeing them bent so well to their breakfast,
and nothing at all to respect him, in the place where he late cast
out these merry speeches vnto them.

Much good doe it you masters and well may you fare,

Beshroe both your hearts and if you do spare:

The wine should be nought as I judge by the smell,

And by the colour too I know it full well.

By faith quoth Meg that's but a jest,

He sweare quoth Robin tis none of the best.

Fast it quoth Meg, then tell me thy mind:

Yea marry quoth Robin now you are kind.

With that Margaret filling a cup with fall, gaue it into
his hand saying: Now fast it Robin and take there the cup. Nay
hang me quoth Robin if I drinke it not up.

By my Maiden-head quoth Margaret, I see that thou art a
good fellow: and to haue this drinke it up, is the thing that I
crave.

Then sweare quoth Robin by the thing you haue,

For this to sweare I dare be bold:

You were a maid at three yeares old.

From three to foure, five, sixe, and seauen,

But when you grew to be eleuen,

Then you began to breed desire;

By twelue your fancy was on fire:

At thirteene yeares desire grew quicke,

And then your maiden-head fell sicke:

But when you came vnto fouenteene,

All secret kisses was not seene:

By that time fiftene yeares was past,

I guesse your maiden-head was lost,

And I pray God forgiue me this,

If thinking so I thinke amisse.

Now by my honesty quoth Meg you doe me mighty wrong to
thinke

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thinke so ill of me: for though indeed I confesse, I cannot excuse my selfe, for women are not Angels, though they haue Angels eyes: for to speake the truth might I haue had my stony hearts desire when time was, I would rather haue chosen to lye with a man then a maide, but such merry motions were out of my mind many a deere day agoe, and now I know that a maiden I will be. By this wine quoth Robin I dare sweare you lye, For were I as my master by this good light, You would leese your maiden head ere twelve a clock at night.

With high derry derry,
If it be not gone already.

Pay quoth Margaret your master scownes me, he keeps all his gownes for Gillian of the George: a pretty wench I confesse, hauing appoynted body but a bad leg, she hath a very good countenance but an ill coulour, and you talk of desire, but her desire I doubt will bring her the Greene Sicknesse, if your master like a good Physitian glue her not a medicine against that malady: why Margaret quoth Richard, hath she told you so much of her mind, that you know her grieffe so well? It may be she hath quoth Margaret, but whether she did or no, it is sufficient that I know so much: But I thinke quoth Margaret you are not so belovved to make any account of a Tallow cake.

No faith quoth Robin, a nut-browne girle,
Is in mine eye a Diamond and a Pearle:
And shee that hath her cheekes cherry red,
Is euer best welcome to a young mans bed.

Certainly quoth Richard, which is the best or worst I know not yet, nor doe I meane hastily to probe; and as Gillian of the George, as she hath no reason to hate me, so she hath no cause to loue me: but if she doe, it is more labour then I did euer merit at her hand, and surely were it but in regard of her good will, I am not to scorne her, nor for her labour to sad her with floutes, but for her good thoughts of me, to thinke well of her, though not so well as to make her my wife: Well said master, quoth Robin.

In this sort grind you still,
So shall we haue mo sackes to mill.

Trust me quoth Margaret, I speake not this so much to disgrace Gillian,

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Gillian, as for the regard I haue to your credit: but to make an end of Gillian and this lest altogether, let me entreat you soone at night to come to our house; and thinke this, though your chiere chance to be small, your welcome shall be great. I know that this Summer (and especially against these holy daies) you will worke till ten, and I promise you by eleuen I will haue as good a posset for you, as euer you did taste on in your life. My master is an old man, and he commonly goes to bed at nine, and as for my mistress, I know where she will be safe till midnight masse be ended, so that for an houre we may be as merry as pope Iohn: what say you Richard quoth she, will you come? In troth Margaret quoth he, I heartily thank you for your good will, I would willingly come but I loue not to be from home so late.

I thinke so quoth Robin least you should misse Kate,
But take my counsell, when you are with Meg:

Suppose you haue got fine Kate by the leg.

Robin saith he, thou art so full of thy rime, that often thou art without reason; thou seest that Margaret hath ben at cost with vs to day, and it is moze then good manners to charge her further, before we haue made amends for this: and beside that late walking in the euening byings young men into much suspition. Thus quoth Margaret, once and vse it not, is not such a matter: therefore steepe Richard you shall come, and you shall not say me nay, therefore I charge you on paine of displeasure not to faile, and forget not to bring round Robin with you, and so farewell.

No faith quoth Robin, it shall not need,

I am bidden already and so God speed.

Who bad thee quoth Margaret?

What are thy wits so vnsteady?

You did bid me quoth Robin, haue you forgot already?

Why then I pray the good Robin saith Meg, do not forget in any case, and put thy matter in mind thereof if he should chance to change his opinion: or ouerslip the time through carelesnes of work for I faith Robin if thou bring him along with thee, I will thinke the better of thee while I liue: why then quoth he.

And as I am no knight,

We will come to eate the posset soone at night.

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Now Margaret was no sooner gone, and Richard at his cutting boord, and Robin set on his stoule, but in comes Gillian of the George, bysinging in her apoyne the corner of a Wenison pastie, and a good deale of a Lambe pye, who with a smyling countenance entring the shop, blessing Richard good morrow, askt if he had broke his fast: yes verily quoth Richard I thank long Meg, we haue bene at it this morning, and had you come a litle sooner you had found her here, for she went away but euen now, and I verily thinke she is scant at home yet.

Tis a lusty wench quoth Robin gentle and kind,

And in truth she beares a most bountifull mind.

Gillian hearing Robin to enter into Megs commendations, began to grow zealous of the matter: out upon her soule stammell quoth she, he that takes her to his wife shall be sure of flesh enough, let him get bread where he can: tis such a bold betrice, she will acquaint her selfe with every bodie. Notwithstanding this I will tell you Richard, the lesse she comes in your company, the more it will befor your credit. And howsoever shee deserves it, God knowes, I cannot accuse her, but I promise you she hath but a hard report among many. But letting her rest as she is, shew here what I haue brought you, and with that she gaue him the Wenison and the rest, and drawing her purse, she would needs send for a quart of wine, Richard sought to perswade her to the contrary, but she would not be intreated; what man quoth she, I am able to giue you a quart of wine. That's spoke like an Angell quoth Robin.

And this I doe thinke,

If you be able to giue it, we be able to drinke.

Hereupon the wine was fetcht, and so they sate them downe to their meate, at what time they fed not so heartily on the Wenison pastie, but Gillians eye fed as greedily on Richards faour: & as sone as the wine was come, she pluckt out of her pocket a good peece of sugar, & filling a glasse of wine tempered wel therewith, she drank to him saying: here Richard to all that loue you and me: but especially to him whom I loue best: let it come quoth Richard, I will pledge him whosoener it be.

So will I quoth Robin without any faile,

Were it the best Hipocras, I would turn it ouer my naile. Then

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Then Gillian looking round about spoke to this effect: verily Richard here is a pretty house, and every thing handsome by Saint Anne, I see nothing wanting but a good wife to keep all things in his due kind: wherunto Robin made this answer.

Now speake thy conscience, and tell me good Gill,

Wouldst not thou be that good wife, with a good will?

Why? alas quoth she, your master scornes me, he looks for a golden gire, or a gire with gold, that might bring him the red ruddocks chinking in a bag, and yet possible he were better to haue one with lesse money, and more huswifery: for my owne part I thanke God, and in a good time may I speake it, I would not come to learne of neuer a woman in Westminster, how to deale in such affaires: I thinke no lesse quoth Richard, and therefore I pray God send you a good husband, and one well deserving to good a wife: with that Gillian fetcht a great sigh, saying; Amen I pray God, for it is a sinfull thing to leade a sinfull life, except: Nay, say your mind, speake your mind quoth Richard: Why quoth she, it is written, that we shall giue an account for every idle word, and that ill thoughts are as bad as wanton deeds: it is true quoth Richard, then God helpe vs all quoth Gillian, but if I were married, I should remove a great many of them. Why then marry me quoth Robin, and thereby prevent the perill of bad thoughts: hark in thy eare Robin quoth she, I would thy master would say as much, and then he should soone know my mind.

Ha, ha, quoth Robin, I faith you drab,

And would you have him to stampe the crab?

Why what is the matter quoth Richard: nay nothing quoth Gillian, but that I was bold to jest with your man, and I hope you will not be offended if he and I talke a word or two. There is no reason I should quoth Richard, and therefore conserre at your pleasure, and the whilest I will be busie with the Lambe ppe, then Gillian rounding Robin in the eare, spoke in this sort vnto him. I perceiue you can spee day at a little hole: you may see Robin, love is like an vnroly streame that will ouer-flow the banks if the course be once stoppt, as by my speeches no doubt you haue noted: neuerthelesse how forcible soeuer fancy is, it is thought small modesty in a maiden to lay open her heart in those

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cases, but I am of opinion that affection growing as strong in a woman as a man, they ought to haue equall prouidence, as well as men to speake their minds. Robin, I take thee to be an honest fellow, and it is the part of a man in cases of honest love to assist poore maidens: counsell the key of certainty, which makes me to require both thy counsaile and help. In truth Robin to be plain, I love thy Maister with all my heart: and if thou wouldst be so much my friend to break the matter vnto him, and therewithall to procure his good liking to me, I would bestow on thee as good a sale of apparell as euer thou wast master of in thy life: wherevnto Robin answered, saying,

Heere's my hand Gillian, at thy request

Ile make a vow Ile doe my best,

But for my apparell grant me this,

In earnest first to give me a kisse.

There it is quoth Gillian, and I doe profess, that upon that blessed day, when he giues his happy consent to be my husband, at the deliuey of thy apparell I will make that one kisse twenty, and hereupon shaking hands, they came to the table and set them downe againe. Richard marking all, said nothing, but at her approach to the boord tooke the glasse and drunke to her, giuing her thanks for her coo and kindnes: she gladly accepting the same, bonding her body in stead of curse, tooke it at his hands, and with a winke drunke vnto Robin, and so taking her leaue of them both as light as a Doe she ran speedily home.

So soone as she was gone, Robin told his Maister it was the pleasantest life in the world to liue a Watcheler, during which time he could neither want good chere nor good company: I marre quoth Richard, but what I get one way I spend another way, while I passe the time in tridling about nothing: you see quoth he, here is a fozennoone spent to no purpose, and all by the means of a couple of gigles, that haue greater desire to be playing with a man, then to be mindfull to follow their busines: but if I liue I will sodainly aboid both their delights and their loues. I tell thee Robin, I account their labours full of fraud, and their inticements dangerous, and therefore a man must not be won with faire words as a fish with a bait.

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Well paster quoth Robin, all is one to me, whether you love them or loath, but yet soone at night let not the possiet be for got.

Wleebe me quoth Richard, if I rest in the mind I am in now, I meane not to be there at all. When you will lose her love, quoth Robin for ever and ever Amen: that, said his paster is the onely thing that I request, for the love of a throe is like the shadow of a cloude that consumeth as soone as it is saine, and such love had I rather lose then find.

But yet quoth Robin, this once follow my mind

Through by her love you set but light,

Let vs eate the possiet soone at night :

And afterward I will so deale,

If you will not my trickes reveale :

That they shall trouble you no more,

Though by your love they set great store :

For one another they shall beguile,

Yet thinke themselves well pleas'd the while.

Merily quoth his paster, if thou wilt doe so, I will be Megs guest for this once, and happy shall I thinke my self to be so well rid of them: Hereupon being resolved, they plyde their worke hard till the euentag, and when the Sunne was crept under the earth, and the Stars up in the skies, Richard having his shop window shut in, and his doores made fast, he with his man Robin, took their direct way to the spread Eagle, where they no sooner knockt at the doore, but Margaret came downe and let them in, with such a cherefull countenance, as gave perfect testimony of their welcome. Now Richard quoth she, I will witness you are a man of your word, and a man that hath respect of his promise: I pray you hartly come nere, for to have you come in my office, is my desire: but tell vs first quoth Robin, was your office never a fire? she saith no quoth she, you see the kitchen is large and the chimney wide: but how many rookes quoth Robin, hath the goodnes of your kitchen fride? I know not said Meg, how many or how few: trust me quoth Robin I thinke even so. Goe to quoth Meg, I smell out your knavery, and guesse at your meaning, but taking it to be spoken more for mirth, then for malice, I let them passe. Then taking Richard by

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the hand. He had him sit downe. saying good Richard think your selfe welcome, for in troth I have neuer a friend in the world that can be better welcome: I thank you god Magaret said he.

I thank her still quoth *Robin*, with thanks of every degree,

For you that have all the welcome, shall give all thanks for mee,
Robin. Meg, be not offended for thou art welcome to mee,
I saith quoth he, you bid me welcome when you haue nothing else to do.

Here withall Margaret very neatly laying the cloth, with all things necessary, set a dainty minst pie on the board piping hote, with a great deale of other good chere, and having sent another maide of the house for a pottle of wine, they fell to their meat merrily. whereof when they had eaten and drunk, Margaret stepping from the board went to reach the pottle, but while she had it in her hands she sodainly heard one coming down the stairs: Gods precious quoth she, my spaster comes, what shall we make to hide the pottle, if he chance to see it. We shall have more anger then ten pottles are worth with that she quickly whipt into the yard, and set the pottle downe upon the seat in the paby-house, thinking it there safest out of sight, for her spaster being an old crabbed fellow, would often steale downe to see what his maids were a doing, but God wot that was not the cause, for the old man beinga rased by the loosenes of his body, came hastily downe to pay tribute to Aisx. where when he was come, he clapt his buttocks into the pottle, where with being grieuously scalded, he cried out saying, alacke, alacke, help maids, help, or I am spoild for euer: for some spirit or diuell in the soule bottoome of the pottle hath throwne up boylng leate upon my buttocks and in this case like one dauncing the trench moze he stamp up and downe the yard, holding his hips in his hands: Meg that better knew what the matter was then her master, ran into the house of office with a spit in her hand, as if she had bene purposed to brooch the diuell, and there casting the well spiced pottle into the midst of the puddle taking the bason away, said, how now spaster, what is the matter, who hath hurt you, or are you not hurt at all: Hurt quoth her master, I tell thee Meg, neuer was man thus hurt, and yet I am ashamed to shew my hurt: bying
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me a Candle quoth Meg, I tell you Master, it is better all should be the wren, then all should be spoiled: and there with casting by his shirt, spied both his great chokes full of small blisters, wherupon he was saine with all possible speed, to make him a medicine with sallet oyle and honselicks, to alluage the fury of an vnfaire fire. And by meanes of this unhappy chance, Richard with his man was saine secretly to slip away, and to goe home without tasting the posset at all: which was to Robin no small grieue, and yet they could both of them scant stand for laughing, to thinke how odly this feast fell out.

I am quoth Robin, forty yeares old and more,

Yet did I never know posset, so tasted before:

I thinke his eyes in his Elbowes he had,

To thrust his arse in the posset, or els he was mad.

His master answering said, beleue me Robin, I neuer knew the like in my life, but by the grace of God I will neuer goe there no more to eate a posset: and so going to bed they slept away sorrow till morning. At what time Margaret comming thither told them she was very soie they were so suddenly broke from their banquet, but so saith Richard (quoth she) another time shall make amends for all.

CHAP. 3.

How the Cocke of Westminster was married to a Dutch maiden, for which cause Long Meg, and Gillian of the George, wore willow Garlands.



Richard Casteler liuing a long time a Batchelor in Westminster, after many good proffers made vnto him, refusing all, hee at last liked his loue to a young Dutch maiden dwelling in London, who besides that, was of proper personage, and comely countenance, and could doe diuers pretty feates to get her owne liuing. To this pretty soule went Richard secretly a wooing, who for halfe a yeare set as light by him, as hee did by the Maidens of Westminster, And the more hee was denyed, the more desirous hee was to seeke her good will, much like to an vntruly patient, that most longes after the meate hee is most forbidden:

and such is the fury of fond Lovers, to esteeme them most precious: that are to them most pernicious: he scornfully chunneth such as gently seekes him, and loves her earnestly that makes him off from wardly: but while he was thus busied to make himselfe blessed by matching with a playden in London, round Robin cast in his mind how to let the playdens wittes a worke in Westminster, which he effected as occasion was offered in this sort.

Margaret and Gillian comming often by the shop, cast many a shrewes eye to spee out their beloved friend, and after they had many times mist him from his busines, they thought either that he was growne love-sick or lazie: but knowing him a man to be mightily addicted to the getting of money, judged that it was not idleness, that withheld him from his busines, but rather that he was gone a wooing to one pretty wench or other, for loving hearts have ever suspicious beades and jealousie is copartner with affection: whereupon Margaret entred into these speeches with round Robin.

I muse much quoth Meg, where your Master layes his knife a boze now adayes, for seloome or never can I see him in his shop: trust me, I doubt, he is become thysittles, and will probe but a bad husband in the end: tell me Robin said she, I pray thee say where doth the Cocke crow now?

Nor so said Robin, my Master will not that allow,

I must not shew his secrets to one or other:

Therefore you shall not know it though you were my mother,

Yet thus much by thy speech I plainly do see,

Thou thinkst not so well of him as he thinks on thee.

Margaret hearing round Robin rime so good purpose, asked if hee knew his Masters minde so much: truly, quoth she, if I will be boze any spark of love toward me, it should neither goe unregarded nor unrewarded, therefore sweet Robin let me know whereupon thou speakest; feare not my secreete, for I will rather lose my life then betray his love. Whereupon Robin said, that his Master was very well affected towards her, and that if it were not that Gillian of the George did cast searching eyes into his actions, he would long ere this have betrothed his mind: but quoth Robin, he is so haunted by that female spirit, that

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that he can take no rest in no place for her, and therefore the more to quiet his mind, he hath left his shop to my charge and betaken himselfe to wander the Woods so wild.

These words uttered by Robin made Margarets heart leape in her belly: wherefore taking gently her leave of him, she thus began to meditate on the matter: How doe I well see that the tongue of a wise man is in his heart, but the heart of a foole is in his tongue: and Richard quo. the, hast thou borne me such secret good will and would neuer let me know it? I wis, I wis: some would thy sorrow be asswaged if thou soughtest remedie at my hand: well though the fire be long suppressed, at length it will burst into a flame, and Richards secret good will, at last will shew it selfe, till when I will rest my selfe contented, thinking it sufficient that I know he loves me: and saying it is so, I will make him sue and serbe, and dance attendance after me: when he is most curteous, I will be most coy, and as it were scorn his proffers, and shunning his presence, I will make him the more earnest to intreat my fauour: when he saies he loves me, I will laugh at him, and say he can flatter well: if he affirme he be grieued through my dislike, and that the lacke of my good will hath bene his greatest sorrow, I will say alas good soule, how long haue you bene love-sick: pluck out thy heart man and be of good cheere: there is more maides then gall in the world: I doe lightly esteeme thee there are some that perhaps will better regard both thy griefe, and thy good will: and therefore good Dicke trouble me no more.

Thus must maides dissemble, least they be counted too courteous and shewing themselves overfond, become the lesse fauoured. for a womans love being hardly obtained, is esteemed most sweet, therefore we must giue our lovers an hundred denials for fashion sake, though at the first we could find in our hearts to accept their proffered pleasures.

Thus in a jolly humour Margarett settled home, flattering her selfe in her happy fortune, in which delight she will leaue her, and make some rehearfall of Gillians toy: who comming in the like manner to Robin, asking for his spasser, was certified by him, that for her sake onely he liued in such sorrow, that he could

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could not stay in his shop, and therefore was faine to dye a way melancholy by marching abroad. **G**illian (quoth he) had it not bin for two causes, he would long ere this haue vttered his mind vnto thee, for he lones thee above measure: **G**saith, quoth Gillian, is it true (Robin) that thou dost tell me? Doubt not of that (quoth he) doe you think that I will tell you a lye? I should gaine nothing by that I am sure: if then you will beleue me you may, if not chuse, I meane not to intreat you thereto: **S**ay god Robin (quoth he) be not angry, though I credit thy speeches, yet blame me not to aske a question, aske what you will quoth Robin, I respect it not, and I may chuse whether I will answere you or no: **S**ounds, now I haue opened my masters secret, you were best blab it throug all the towne. **S**ay god Robin that is not my mind quoth Gillian, but I beseech thee, let me know those two causes that keepes thy master from vttering his mind: **S**ay soft, there lay a strato for feare of stumbling quoth Robin, hold your peace Gillian, it is not good to eate too much honey, nor, to gorge you with too much gladnes: let it suffice that you know what you know. **S**ay god swaie Robin quoth he, I pray thee make it not dainty now to tell me all, seeing you haue begun: the day may come that I in my requite thy curtesie to the full: **S**ay you so, Gillian quoth hee: now by good Crispianus soule I sweare, were it not that I am in hope you will prove kind to my master, and be a good mistress to be when you are married, I would not vter one word more, no not halfe a word, nor one syllable. **T**ell Robin quoth he if euer I come to command in thy masters house, and to carry the keys of his Cubberts tingling at my sides, thou shalt see I will not keepe a higgards Table, to haue bare platters brought from the board, but you shall haue meate and drinke plenty, and be vsed as men ought to be vsed in all reasonable manner. And wherreas you seeme to make doubt of my kindnesse toward thy master ha Robin, I would thou knewest my heart.

Robin hearing this, told her this tale, that his master lobed her intyrelly, and would long since haue vttered his mind, but for two reasons: the first was, that he could heber find fit opportunity to doe it, because of Long Meg, whose loue to him was

more then he could wish, and such as he would gladly remove if he might: for saith Robin, though my Master do not care a straw for her, yet she casts such a bright eye upon him, that if he do but speake, or looke upon any. The by and by poyntes and lowzes, and many times in eyes against the parties with disgracefull termes, which is to my Master such a griefe, that he is faine to keepe silent, what other wise should be shewn: and the second reason is this, that because he is not so wealthy as he could wish himselfe, you would disdain his sute, and make no account of his good will. Who I quoth Gillian: not by these ten bones it was never my mind to say him nay. I tell thee Robin I doe more respect his kindness then his goods: he is a proper youth and well conditioned, and it is far better to have a man without money, then money without a man. Why then good Gillian quoth Robin, harken hither three dayes hence, and you shall heare more, but in the meane space loke you play mum-budger, and speake not a word of this matter to any creature. I warrant thee Robin quoth she, and so away she went being as glad of this tydings as her Master was of a good Term: So when his Master came home, his man Robin asked him how he sped in his suit? verily quoth he, even as Cokes doe in baking of their pies, sometimes well, sometimes ill. London Maids are wily wenches: on Sunday my sweet-heart was halfe won, but now I doubt she is wholly lost. So to she is in one mind, by and by in another, and to be bylese never steadfast in any thing.

Thus Master quoth Robin, if my not so much to a thistle, I will take this comfort, that what one will not, another will: I tell you Master, Crabs yeldes nothing but verjuice, a sower sauce good for digestion but bad to the taste, and these nice minions are so full of curiosity, that they are cleave without curtesie: yet well fare the gallant girles of Westminster, that will doe more for a man then he will doe for himselfe. What is that said his Master? mary quoth he, get him a wife ere he is aware, and give two kisses before he calles for one. What indeed is extraordinary kindness quoth Richard, but their loves are like brasted wares, which are often shovne, but hardly sold.

Well Master quoth Robin, you know your two old friends Meg and Gillian: I, what of them quoth Richard? In troth quoth he, I have made them both so proud, that they prance through the streets like the Kings great horses: for I have made them both believe that you love them out of all cry. And I bestow thy heart for that quoth Richard, for therein thou dost both deceive them, and discredit me: I assure thee I like not such jesting.

Now give quoth Robin, are you griev'd at my talke?

And if you be angry I pray you goe walke.

Thus you doe never esteeme of a man,

Let him doe for you the best that he can.

Richard hearing his man so hot, pacified him with many cold and gentle speeches, wishing if he had begun any jest, that he should finish it with such discretion, that no reproach might grow thereby unto him, and then he would be content: whereupon Robin proceeded in this sort.

Upon a time Margaret according to her wonted manner came thither, whom Robin perswaded that his Master was newly gone into Tuttle field, and that he left word if she came she should doe so much as to meet him there: but quoth he, take heed in any case least Gillian of the George spee you, and so follow to the place where my Master attends your coming, who I dare sweare should not for all the shames in his shop it should be so: and therefore good Margaret if you chance to see her, goe not forward in any case, but rather lead her a contrary way, or make some quaint excuse, that she may leave your company, and not suspect your pretence. Thus quoth Margaret, let me alone for that, if she follow me she were better no, for I saith I will lead her a dance shall make her weary before she have done, and yet shall she goe home as very a sole as she came forth, for any goodness she gets at my hand: and therefore farewell Robin quoth she, for I will trudge into Tuttle fields as fast as I may.

But looke quoth Robin, you loose not your Maiden head by the way.

Robin presently thereupon runnes unto Gillian, saying what chere Gillian, how goes the world with all the pretty wench here?

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here: it is a long while since I haue seen you.

I saith Robin quoth they, we rub out with the rest, but what is the news with thee?

Small news quoth Robin yet somewhat I haue to say,
All Maides that cannot get husbands must presently marry,
They that cannot stay,
But heare you Gillian a word by the way.

And with that (rounding her in the eare) he told her that incontinent it was his Masters mind that she should meet him in Tuttle fields, charging her if she met Margaret of the Crane, that she should in no case goe so ward, but turne her steps some other way, so quoth he, my Master cannot abide that great rounsefull should come in his company.

So that let me alone quoth Gillian, but trust me Robin, it could not haue come in a worse time this twelue moneth, so this day haue we a mighty deale of worke to doe, beside a great bucke that is to be washt: why then let it rest till another time quoth Robin: nay quoth she, hap what hap will, I will goe to him, altho kindly he sent for me; and thereupon making her selfe quickly ready, into Tuttle fields she got, where at last she espied Margaret with a hand-basket in her hand, who as sodainly had got a sight of her, and therefore made a shew as if she gathered hearbs in the field. I wis that craft shall not serue your turne quoth Gillian, I will gather hearbs as fast as you, though I haue as little need of them as your selfe.

But in the mean time Robin got him home, and hartily laught to see what paines these wenches toke for a husband. O quoth he, what a merry world is this, when Maids runnes a madding for husbands, with hand-baskets in their hands: now may I well sweare what I haue seen.

Two Maides runne as fast as they can,

A mile in the fields to meet with a man.

Then how can men for shame say that Maides are proud, disdainfull or coy, when we find them so gentle, that they will run to a man like a Falcon to the Lure, but alas poore soules, as good were they to seek for a needle in a bottle of hay, as to search for Richard of the Rose in Tuttle fields: but hereby doe I knowe

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th:ir minds against another time, if my master should chance to request their company.

Thus did round Robin describe them when he found their fondnes to be such: but to leave him to his humoꝝ, we will returne to the Maids that were so busie in picking up hearbs in the fields: when Meg saw that Gillian would not away at last she came unto her, asking what she made there: Say what doe you here quoth she: for my owne part I was sent for to seek the Harts-ease, but I can find nothing but sorrel: Alack good soule quoth M g, and I come to gather thistle, but can light on nothing but thistles, and therefore I will get my wates home as fast as I can: In doing so you shall doe well quoth Gillian, but I mean to get some Harts ease ere I goe away: Say Gillian quoth she, I am sure I shall find thistle as sone as you shall find Harts-ease, but I promise you I am out of hope to find any to day, I pray you get you gone then quoth she, what would you so faine be rid of my company quoth Meg: for that word I meane not to be gone yet: I saith Gill I smell a rat.

Then quoth she you have as good a nose as our gray Cat: but what rat do you smell tell me: I doubt I doubt if there be any rat in the field, you would faine catch him in your trap, if you knew how: but I saith Meg you shall be deceived as cunning as you are. Then belike qd. Meg you would not have the rat taste no cheese but your owne: all is one for that said Gillian, but wheresoever he run I would have him creep into no corner of yours: your wordes are mysticall quoth Meg, but if thou art a good wench, let us goe home together: no: so said Gillian, as I came not with you, so I meane not to goe with you.

So quoth Meg: before God I sweare I will stay as long as thou for thy life. In troth quoth she, I will make you stay till midnight then. yea quoth Meg: now as sure as I live I will try that. And in this humoꝝ sometimes they sat them downe, and sometimes they stalkt round about the field, till it was darke night, and so late, that at last the watch met with them, who contrary to Gillians mind, toke paines to bring them home both together: at what time they gave one another such private flours, that the watchmen toke no little delight to heare it:

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it : But their Mistresses that had so long mist them from home though they were very angry with their long absence, yet were glad they were come againe. And asking where they had bene so long, the watch-men answered, that the one had bene to take Harts-eale, and the other to gather thurst and therefore that they should not blame them for staying so long to get such good commodities : Merily quoth their Mistresses we will not, for no maruell if they stayed out till midnight about such matters, seeing we haue sought it this seuen yeares and could neuer find it : and in this sort this jest ended.

Within a while after this, Richard through his long wooing, had gotten the good will of his sweet-heart, and therefore making all things ready for his marriage, the matter being known through Westminster, Margaret and Gillian, had tydings thereof with the soonest, who comming unto Richard said he was the most faine and inconstant man in the world. Haba I quoth Meg, set my whole mind upon thee to be thus serued ? Nay quoth Gillian, haba I loved thee so dearly, and indured such sorrow for thy sake, to be thus unkindly cast off ? And I quoth Meg, that neuer thought any thing too much for thee, that loved thee better then my life, that was at all times ready at thy call, and ready to run or goe at thy commandement, to be so undeserbet by forsaken, grieues not my heart a little : Nay quoth Gillian, could you make me leaue my worke to waite upon thee in Tuttle-fields ? Nay did I waite there halfe a day together quoth Meg, at thy request to be thus mockt at thy hand ? Now I wish it from my heart, if thou marrest any but me, that thy life may make thee as errant a Cuckold as Jack Comes. So you are very charitable quoth Richard, to wish me no worse then you meane to make your husband : but when did I request thee to come into Tuttle-fields ? What haue you so wake a memory quoth she ? I pray you aske your man round Robin whether it were so or no : Well quoth Robin how then ? wherefore did you not speake with him at that present ?

You know it comes in an houre, comes not in seven yeare,
Had you met him at that instant you had married him cleare.

A vengeance take her quoth Meg, I could not make him for
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Gillian. And I could not meet him for Margaret, a moztin sake her go Gillian, Richard perceiuing by their speech there was a pad lying in the straw, made this reply. It is a strange thing to see how you will blame me of discourtesie. When the whole fault lyes in your selues: had you come at the appointed time, it is likely I had married one of you, seeing my minde was as well addicted to the one as to the other: Why may it not be yet noth they, if it please you: not so said Richard, you speake too late, men gather no grapes in January, my wine is already provided, and my wife prepared: therefore I thanke you both of your good wills, though I be constrained of force to forsake you the maidens being herewith strack into their dumps, with water in their eyes, and grieve in their hearts went home, to whom Robin carryed two Willow garlands, saying.

You pretty soules that forsaken be,

Take here the branches of the Willow tree,

And sing loves farewell joyntly with me.

Meg being merily inclined, wooke off sorrow in this sort, and gently taking the Willow Garland, said: wherefore is grieve good: can it recall folly past: no: can it helpe a matter remembreless: no: can it restore losses, or draw us out of danger: no: what then: can grieve make unkind men courteous: no: can it bring long life: no: for it doth rather hasten our death. What then can it do: can it call our friends out of their graves: no: can it restore virginity if we chance to lose our maidenhead: no: When wherefore should I grieve: except I went to kill my selfe: Nay seeing it is so, hang sorrow, I will never care for them that care not for me, and therefore a Fyge for the Cocke of Westminster: by this good day I am glad I have leapt him, for I doe now consider I should have never woke rest after foure a clocke in the morning, and alas a young married wife would be loath to rise before eight or nine: beside that I should never have gone to bed before ten or eleven, or shoulde be a clocke at night by that meanes, what a deale of time should I have lost about other women: have him noth you: now God blesse me, I sweare by Venus, the faire goddess of sweet love, in the minde I am in, I would not have him, if he had so much

as would lie in Westminster Hall. And therefore Robin this willow garland is to me right heartily welcome and I will goe with thee to Gillian presently, and thou shalt see us weare them rather in triumph, then in timorous feare. Well said in good sadness, quoth Robin, thou art the gallantest girl that ever I knew. But when she came to Gillian, Robin staide for her at the staire foot: they found her sicke in her bed, fetching many soze sighes, to whom Margaret spake in this manner. Why how now Gillian, what sicke a bed: now tis soz shame, plucke up a good heart woman, let no man triumph so much ober thee, to say thou gabest the Crow a pudding, because love would let thee libe no longer: be content quoth she, and take courage to thee, death is a solow crabbed fellow.

Alas quoth Gillian, death is sweet to them that libe in soz row, and to none should he be better welcome then to me, who desires nothing more then death to end my mileries: What now quoth Margaret, whose spere is dead: art thou a young wench, saile and comely, and dost thou despaire of life? and all soz love, and all soz love. A sand soole worthy to weare a coate with foure elbowes, this were enough if there were no more men in the world but one, but if there were two, why shouldst thou languish, much lesse knowing there is so many to be had. O quoth Gillian, what is all the men in the world to me now I have lost Richard whose love was my life. I pray thee rise quoth Meg, and let us go drinke a quart of Backe to wash sozrow from our hearts. O quoth she, I cannot rise if you would geve me a hundred pound, nor will I rise for any mans pleasure: what quoth Meg, if your father sent for you, would you not goe to him? No quoth she: would you not goe to your mother: no: but what if your brethren requested you to rise? I saith I would not quoth she: say that some of the Kings Gentlemen intreated your company: never prate, I would not goe to the best Lord in the Land. Gillian, nor to no man els in the world: No quoth Meg, I am sure you would. Quoth she if I doe, say I am an errant queane, and count me the veriest drab that ever trod on two shooes. Nay quoth Meg, saying you say so, I have done, I was about to tell you of a man, but

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Is it is to small purpose, and therefore I keepe my breath to coole my postage.

A matter said Gillian? what matter is it sweet Meg tell me: No quoth she, it is in vaine, I would wish you to coner your selfe close, and keepe your selfe warme, leass you catch an ague, and so good night Gillian. May but Meg quoth she, good Meg if euer thou didst lobe me, let me know what this matter is that you speake of, for I shall not be in quiet till I know it: tush tis but a trifle, a trifle quoth Meg; not woorth the talke: your sweet heart Richard, hath sent his man Robin for you, and as he tels me he hath a token to deliuer you. What quoth Gill, is that true: Where is Robin: why comes he not up, truly quoth Meg, he counts it more then manners to presse into a quades chamber: beside he would be loath to giue any cause of suspition to any of your fellowes, to thinke Ill of him or you, for now a dayes the world is growne to such a passe, that if a quade doe but looke merrily upon a young man, they will say straight, that either she shall be his wife, or that she is his harlot: but if they see a man come into a womans chamber, they will not stickes to sweare that they have been naught together; for which cause Robin intreated me to come unto you, and to certifie you that he stayed at the thre-Tannes for your comming: but seeing you are a bed I am forry I have troubled you so much, and therefore farewell good Gillian.

O stay a little good Meg quoth she, and I will goe along with you: and with that on she stipt her petticoate, and made such hast in dressing her selfe, that she would not stay the plucking on of her stockings nor the drawing on of her shoes: why how now Gillian quoth Meg, have you forgot your selfe? remember you are Ill and sicke a bed: Tush quoth she I am well enough now: but if you goe forth to night you are an arrant djab, and a veriqueane quoth Meg: Tush tis no matter for that, said Gillian, grise hath two tongues, to say, and to unsay, and therefore I respect not what you pze, and therewithall she ran downe the staires after Margarer, who got Robin to goe before to the thre-Tannes, where when Gillian came, she asked him how his Maister did, and what his errand was to her.

Soft,

Soft: First let us drinke quoth Robin, and then let us talke,
That we cannot pay for, shall be set up in chaike.

You speak merrily, quoth Margaret, whatsoeuer you meane,
but I would I could see the wine come once, that I may drinke a
heartie draught; for sorrow they say is dry, & I find it to be true.
Then drinke hard quoth Robin, and bid sorrow adue.

Thus when they had whipt off two or thre quarts of wine,
Gillian began to grow as pleasant as the best, and would needs
know of Robin, what it was he had to say to her; nothing quoth
he, but to doe my Masters commendation, and to deliuer you
his token. This token, quoth Gillian? What, a Willow gar-
land? Is the matter so plaine: is this the best reward hee can
giue me for all my good will; had he no body to flout but mee?
Yes by my faith, quoth Meg, it was his minde that I should
beare you company, therefore, looke what he sent to you, he did
the like to mee, and that thou maiest the better believe me, see
where it is.

Intollerable iniury, quoth Gillian, did I take paines to rise
and come out of my warme bed for this: How unfortunate
habe I bene aboue all other in the world? Well, seeing I can-
not recall what is past, I will take this as a iust penance for
my so much folly; and if Margaret will agree, we will weare
these disdainfull bryanches on his marriage day to his great dis-
grace, though to our continuall sorrow: content quoth Meg, all
is one to mee, loke what thou wilt allow, I will not dislike,
and so paying the Host, away they went.

At length, when the marriage day was come, and that the
Bride, in the middell of her friends was set downe to dinner,
Margaret and Gillian attyzed in red Stammel petticoats, with
white linnen sleeves and fine Holland Aprons, habing their
Willow garlandes on their heads, entred into the Hall singing
this song:

When fancie first fram'd our likings in love,
sing all of greene Willow:
And faithfull affection such motion did move,
for Willow, Witlo w, Willow.

Where pleasure was plenty we chanced to be,
 sing all of greene Willow:
 There were we enthal'd of our liberty,
 and forced to carrie the Willow garland.

This young man we liked and loved full deere,
 sing all of greene Willow:
 And in our hearts-closet we kept him full neere,
 sing Willow, Willow, Willow.
 He was our hearts-pleasure and all our delight,
 sing all of greene Willow:
 We judg'd him the sweetest of all men in sight,
 Who gives us unkindly the Willow garland.

No cost we accounted too much for his sake,
 sing all of greene Willow:
 Fine bands and handkerchers for him we did make,
 sing Willow, Willow, Willow.
 And yet for our good will, our travell and paine,
 sing all of greene Willow:
 We have gotten nothing but scorne and disdaine;
 as plainly is prov'd by this Willow garland.

Then pardon our boldnesse, thou gentle faire Bride,
 sing all of greene Willow:
 We speake by experience of that we have tride,
 sing willow, willow, willow.
 Our over much courtesie bred all our woe,
 sing all of greene willow:
 But never hereafter we meane so to doe,
 For this onely brought us the Willow garland.

Their song being thus ended, the Bride said she was heartily
 sorry for their hard fortune in love, greatly blaming the Bride-
 groom for his unkindnes; Nay, do not so, quoth Meg, for you shall
 find him kind enough soon at night: but saying he hath disappoint-
 ed me in this sort, it shall go hard, but I will make shift to lose
 my maiden-head as soon as you shall lose yours, and you shall
 make good haste, but I will be before you. O God, quoth she, have

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I bēn so chary to keep my honesty, and so dainty of my maiden-head, that I could spare it no man for the love I boze to hard-hearted Richard, & hath he serb'd me thus: Well Gillian quoth she, let us go, never wil I be so tide in affection to one man again while I live; what a deale of time have I lost and spent to no purpose since I came to London? and how many kinde offers have I forsaken, & disdainfully refused of many brave Gentle-men, that would have bin glad of my good will: I thinke I was accurst to come into his company: Well, I say litle, but hence forthward, hang me if I refuse reason when I am reasonably intreated; trust me, I would not for a good thing, that my friends in the country should know, that one of my ripe age, bone & big- nesse hath all this while lib'd in London toly, like an unprofitable member of the comon-wealth; but if I live, they shall heare that I will be better imploy'd, and so adue good Gillian. Thus Margarer in a melancholy humour went her wales, and in short time after she forsooke Westminster, & attended on the Kings army to Bollin, and while the siege lasted, became a landjessie to the Camp, and never after did she set foze by her selfe, but became common to the call of every man, till such time as all youthfull delights was banished by old age, and in the end she left her life in Illington, being very penitent for all her former offences, Gillian in the end was well married, and became a very good house-keeper, libing in honest name and fame til her dying day.

CHAP. IV.

How round Robin and his fellowes sung before the King.



In Kings spaies having royally wan the strong town of Bullen, victoriously he returned & came into England, and according to his accustomed manner, lying at his Palace of Whitehall, divers of the Nobility passing up and down Westminster, did many times heare the Whomakers iourney-men singing; whose sweet voyces and pleasant songs was so pleading in the eares of the hearers, that it caused them to stay about the waye to hearken thereunto: Robin above the rest, declared such con-
ting

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ning in his song, that he eber obtained the chiefeſt praiſe; and no marvell, for his ſkill in pickſong was more then ordinary, for which cauſe the Singing-men of the Abbey did often call him into the Quiſe. Now you ſhall underſtand, that by their often ſinging in the Shop, the Iourneymen of that houſe were noted aboue all the men in Weſtminſter, and the report of their ſinging went far and near, in ſo much that at the laſt, the Kings Maieſty had knowledge thereof, who hearing them ſo greatly commended, cauſed them to be ſent for to the Court. Whereupon round Robin and his foure fellows made themſelues ready, and their Maſter being of a good mind, againſt the day that they ſhould goe beſore our King, he ſuted them all at his owne proper coſt, in doublets and hoſe of crimſon Taffety, with black Welbet caps on their heads, and white feathers; on their legs they had fine yellow ſtockings, pumps and pantoffes on their feet: by their ſides each of them woze a ſaire ſwozd; and in this ſort being brought beſore his Maieſty, upon their knees they craved pardon for preſuming to come into his royall preſence: The King ſeing them to be ſuch proper men, & attyzed in ſuch Gentleman-like manner, bad them ſtand up: Why my Lords, quoth he, be theſe the merry minded Shoemakers you ſpake of: they are moſt dread Soberaigne, ſaid they; certainly, ſaid our King, you are welcome ebery one, but who among you is round Robin?

My Liege quoth Robin, that man am I,
Which in your Graces ſervice will live and die:
And theſe be my fellowes ebery one,
Ready to waite your royall Grace upon.

Now now Robin (ſaid our King) What, canſt thou rime?
A little my Liege, quoth he, as I ſee place and time.

His Grace laughing heartily at this pleaſant companion,
told him that he heard ſay he could ſing well.

Truſt me, quoth Robin, at your Graces request,
You ſhall well perceiue we will doe our beſt.

Whereupon the King ſate him downe, where many great
Lords & Ladies of high eſtate attended on his Highneſſe. And
being in the Chriſtmas time, after the maſter of merry diſpoſts

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had performed all his appointed pastimes, Robin, with his fellows had liberty to declare their cunning before our King, but the scarcity of his princely presence did so amate them, that they were quite dath'd out of countenance, which his Grace perceiving, gave them many gracious words of encouragement, whereupon they began in this sort, singing a song of the winning of Bullen.

The Song of the winning of Bullen sung before the King by round Robin and his fellows.

IN the moneth of October
Our King he would to Dover :
By leave of Father and the Sonne :
A great armie of men,
Well appointed there was then,
before our noble King to come ;

The valiant Lord Admirall,
He was capitaine Generall,
Of all the royall Navie sent by Sea :
The fight was worthie to behold,
To see the ships with shining gold,
And Flags and Streamers falling all the way.

At Bullen then arriving,
With wisdom well contriving :
The armed men were set in battle ray ;
And Bullen was besieged round,
Our men with Drum and Trumpets sound,
Before it march'd couragious that day.

Then marke how all things chanced,
Before them was advanced,
The royall Standard in the bloodie field ;
The Frenchmen standing on the walls,
To them our English Heralds calls,
Wishing in time their Citie for to yeeld.

The gentle Craft.

Our King hath sent to prove you,
Because that he doth love you,

He profferd mercy if you will imbrace:
If you deny his kinde request,
And in your obstinacie rest,
Behold you bring your selves in wofull case.

Quoth they wee doe deny you,
And flatly we desie you,

Faire Bollen is a famous Maiden towne;
For all the deeds that hath beene done,
By conquest never was she won,
She is a Lady of most high renowne.

VVhen they so unadvised,
His proffer had despised,

Our Ordinance began to shoote amaine,
Continuing eight houres and more,
For why our King most deeply swore,
Her Maiden-hood that he would obaine.

VVhen thus his Grace had spoken,
Hee sent her many a token,

Firie balls, and burning brazen rings:
Faire broad arrowes sharpe and swift,
VVhich came among them with a drift,
VVell garnish'd with the gray goose wings.

This Maiden towne that lately,
Did shew her selfe so stately,

In seeking favour, many teares she shed:
Upon her knees then fell she downe,
Saying, O King of high renowne,
Save now my life, and take my maidenhead.

Lo, thus her selfe she ventred,
And streight her streets wee entred,

And to the market place we marched free :
Never a French-man durst withstand,
To hold a wepon in his hand,
For all the gold that ever hee did see.

Their song being ended, our King cast them a purse with fifty faire angells for a reward, commending both their skill and good boyces, and after much pleasant communication, they had liberty to depart; and when they came home, they told to their Master, all their merriment befoze the King, and what reward his Grace had bestowed on them; and putting the gold downe upon the Table, the same being truly told by their Master, every mans share came iust to five pound a piece. Which, when round Robin saw, he swoze he would bestow a supper upon his Master and Mistresse that night, though it cost him two angels; which his fellowes hearing, and seeing Robins liberall heart to be such, said, they would toyne with him, and laying their money together, would have all the Shoemakers in Westminster to beare them company.

Content, quoth Robin, with all my heart;
And twenty shillings I will spend for my part :
And as I am true man, and sung before our King,
As much shall each of you spend before our parting.
So shall we have musicke and gallant cheere,
Secke and Sugar, Claret wine, strong Ale and Beere.

This being concluded, they met all together at the signe of the Bell, where they were so merry as might be, at what time Robin began to blame his Master, that had not in thre yeeres space gotten his Mistresse with childe. Hold thy peace quoth he, all this while I haue but teased, but when I fall once in earnest, thou shalt see her belly will rise like a Tun of new Ale : thou know'st I am the Cocke of Westminster.

I, quoth Robin, you had that name,
More for your rising, than your goodnesse in Venus game.

The company at this laugh'd heartily, but seven yeeres after this test was remembred; for in all that space had not his wife any childe : Wherefoze Robin would often say, that either his

his Master was no perfect man, or else his Mistress was in her infancy nourished with the milk of a Spale, which bred such barrenesse in her; soz till her dying day she never had child. And after they had liued together, many yeeres, at last, Richard Casteler dyed, and at his death he did others good and godly dedes: among many other things he gave to the City of Westminster, a worthy gift to the cherishing of the poore inhabitants soz ever. He also gave toward the reliefe of the poore fatherlesse childezen of Christs Hospitall in London, to the value of sozty poundland by the yeere; and in the whole course of his life he was a very bountifull man to all the decayed housekeepers of that place, leaving behind him a worthy example soz other men to follow.

CHAP. V.

The pleasant Story of *Peashey* the famous Shoemaker of Fleetstreet in London.



Aboute this time, there liued in London a rich Shoemaker, and a gallant housekeeper; who being a brave man of person, boze a mind agreeable thereunto, and was therefore of most men called lusty *Peashey*: hee kept all the yeeres sozty tall men on worke beside Wrentises, and every one hee clothed in tawny coats, which he gave as his libery to them, all with black caps and yellow feathers; and every Sunday and holiday, when this gentleman-like Citizen went to Church in his black gown garded with velvet, it was his order to have all his men in their liberties to wait upon him, with every man his sword and buckler, ready at any time, if need required.

It came to passe upon S. Georges day, that this lolly Shoemaker (being servant to the Duke of Suffolk) went to the Court with all his men after him, to give attendance upon his noble Master, which some yong Gentlemen moze wanton than wise, beholding & envying his gallant mind, devised how they might picke some quarrell, thereby to have occasion to try his manhood: quoth they, did you ever know a shoemaker, a sowler, a cobbling companion, brave it so with the best, as this fellows doth?

doth: see with what a train of hardie squires he goes, what squaring lads they be: they look as if they would fight with Gargantua, and make a fray with the great Turk, and yet I durst lay my life they dare scantily kill a Hedgehog: mark him I pray, I warrant you there is never a knight in this countrey that goes with so great a train. Swounes, quoth one, it were a good sport to draw, & try what they can do. My Passers be advised quoth another, and attempt nothing rashly: I tell you this fellow is a hardy Coine, he is currant mettley-faith, and whensoever you try him, he warrant you shall finde he will not flie a foot. With that comes by lusty Tom Stuteley, and Strangwidge, two gallant Sea Captaines, who were attired all in Crimson Velvet, in Harriners wide slops that reacht to the foot, in watched silk thymb hats and white feathers, having Pages attending with their weapons, who seeing a cluster of Gentlemen in hard communication at the Court gate, askt what was the matter: Harry Captaine quoth they, we are all beholding to ponder lusty Gallant, that hath so many waiting on him with Talony Coats: Shlowd, what is he, quoth Stuteley? he seems to be a gallant man said Strangwidge, whatsoeber he be: and were it not I see him in the Duke of Suffolks liberie, I would have taken him by his train to be some Lord at the least: Nay quoth Stuteley, he is some knight of good living. Gentlemen quoth they, how your iudgements deceive you: it is certaine he is as good a Shoemaker as any is in Fleetstreet. What is he but a Shoemaker quoth Stuteley? O how that word makes me scratch my elbo: Can a Shoemaker come to the Court with moze servingmen at his heels then Captaine Stuteley? see how it makes my blood rise: O the passion of my heart, how the villaine squares it out: see, see, what a company of handsome fellows follow him, it is twenty pound to a penny but they were better bayne then their Passer: not so quoth the Gentleman, but I think their birth and byzing up was much alike, soz they be all Shoemakers & his schoole companions: now by this iron and steel quoth Stuteley, were it not that he is attendant on the good Duke, I would have him by the ears presently. I will lay an hundred pound, and stake it downe

The Gentleman
straight, that Captaine Strangwidge and I will beat him and
all his forty men. The Gentlemen being ready to set this
match forward, greatly commended the Captaines high cou-
rage: notwithstanding they would not hazard their money on
such a desperate match. Well Gentlemen quoth they, you say
he dwells in Fleetstreet, and that he is a Shoemaker, never
trust us more if we become not his customers, but the crosses
customers shall be finde us that ever came to his Shop for Shes.
Say quoth Sturley, we will bespeak Boots of him, & thus we
will raise our quarrell: when they are made, if they come not
on case, and sit on our legs neatly, we will make them pluck
them off againe, & presently we will beat them in pieces about
his pate, which if he seeme to take in dudgin, and with his men
follow us into the street for revenge, if we make them not leap
before us like Monkeys, and force them run away like Shep-
biters, let us lose our credits and Captainships for ever.

But what if you should chance to kill any of them said the
Gentlemen: swounes quoth they what care we, we are bound
to sea on a gallant voyage, wherein the King hath no small
venture, and without us it cannot go forward, so that it is not
the death of twenty men can stay us at home, and therefore
when they should be seeking of us in Fleetstreet, we would be
seeking out the Coast of Florida.

You say well Captaines quoth they, and no doubt if you do
any such thing we shall heare of it: for the report thereof will be
famous through London. Within a while after Sturley and
Strangwidge, having thus determined, came into Fleetstreet,
and making inquiry for Peaches Shop, they were by every
man directed to the house: where, when they were come, they
called for the good man of the house: the soxeman of the Shop
demanded what their will was: why knave quoth they, what
carest thou, let us speak with thy Master. Gentlemen quoth
he, if you lack any such commodity as we make, you shall finde
me sufficient to serve you, for to that end hath my Master set
me in the Shop. Why Jack-sauce quoth Sturley, you laborer
peasant, know you to whom you speak?

The fellow being very chafed, and somewhat displeased

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at these disdainfull speeches, made him this round answer: ask you to whom I speak quoth he: I Goodman Rat cap said Strangwidge, we ask to whom you speak: Sir quoth he, I speak to a Welbet soke, a filken slave that knowes not how to governe his tongue: with that Scurley swoze like a mad man and presently drew out a dubgin haff dagger that he had by his side, and began to lay at the fellow, which one of his fellows seeing, flung a staff at his head and feld him to the ground: Strangwidge thereupon drew his sword, but by that time the fellow had took downe his sword and buckler, which hung in the shop hard at hand, and therewith so well defended himselfe, that Strangwidge could do him no hurt: and by that time Scurley recovering crald up againe.

But Peachie hearing a great hurly burly in the shop, came forth and demanded the cause of the quarrell: his servants told him that those Gentlemen had given the Journey men very ill words: How can they chuse but speak ill quoth Peachie, for it may be they never learn'd to speak well: whereupon he went unto them saying; how now Captaines, how grew this quarrell twixt you and my men?

Why men quoth Scurley? thy Roags, and thy selfe is no better that bzings them up: Sir quoth Peachie, your wrong me too much, and get you quickly from my doore, or by this sunne that shines, Ile let you packing, & therefore never think to outface me with great looks, for I tell thee Scurley and Strangwidge both, did you look as big as the Deuill I feare you not. And you forgot your manners too much to giue me such base tearms, for I would you well knew I keepe forty good fellows in my house, that in respect of their manhood may seme to be your equals. Intollerable Comparison quoth Scurley, flesh and blood cannot beare such abuse. He tell thee what (quoth he) if we two beat not thee and thy forty men, I durst be hang'd up at thy doore. He, he, tis too much oddes quoth Peachy, dare you two take ten: nay dare you fight with fife: Take that and try quoth Strangwidge, and therewithall gave him a sound blow on the eare: nay this is too much quoth Peachy, put up this and put up all: Scurley and Strangwidge (quoth he) if you be men,

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meet me in Lincolnes·Faine·fields presently : Content quoth they, & thereupon went their wayes. Peachie fetchyng straight his sword and buckler, call'd his man Iohn Abridges to go with him, charging all the rest not to stir out of doores, and so into the fields they went, where immediately they met with these lusty Cabeliers. The Captaines seeing him come only with one man, askt if there well all the helpe he had : I will request no more quoth Peachie, to swinge you both out of the fields.

Bzag is a good Dog quoth Suteley, but tell us, hast thou made thy Will, and set thy house in order : What if I have not quoth Peachie ? Why then quoth Strangwidge, for thy wife and childrens sake go home againe and do it, or else get more aide about thee to preserve thy life.

Why how now Master quoth Iohn Abridges, come you into the field to fight with women : why these be two disguised but-ter whores Ile lay my life, that have more skill in scoulding then in fighting : but heare you quoth he, if you be men, leade your soules weapons, and draw your faire weapons, and because I will spare your middle peece, if I strike a stroke below the girdle, call me Cut : blood shall we be thus out-braved quoth Suteley ? and therewith drawing their weapons, they fell to it lustily, where Peachie and his man laid so bravely about them, that they beat both the Captaines out of bzeath, in which fray, Surely was wounded in the head, and Strangwidge in the sword arme, but at last they were parted by many Gentlemen that came in good time to prevent further mischief.

The Captaines got them straight to the Surgeon, & Peachie with his man went directly home : and while they were a dressing, Peachie hearing how they were hurt, sent to Suteley a kerchiefe by one of his men, and by another a scarffe to Strangwidge, by the third he sent a bottle of Aqua vitæ, wishing them to be of good cheare, for hee intended to be better acquainted with them ere long. The Captaines finding these favours to be but shrouts, were more grieved thereat, then at their hurt, and therefore with many disdainfull speeches, they refused his proffer'd curtesie.

And you shall understand that afterward Peachie's men by
two

two and two at a time, did often meet and fight with them, and so narrowly would they watch for them, that they could be in no place in peace, insomuch that the Captaines found fighting woꝝk enough, & a great deale moze then willingly they would, whereby they receiued many scarres and wounds in the body, so that lightly they were neuer out of Surgions hands. Upon a time it chanced that being upon the point of their voyage, and shortly to go to sea: Scuteley and Strangwidge having haue at the Court, and newly come from my Lord Admirals lodging, befoze they came to Charing-crosse, they were encountred by a couple of Peachies men, who presently dzew upon them, and laid so freely about, that the two Captaines were glad at length to house themselves for their refuge: Now a plague on them quoth Scuteley, shall we neuer be in quiet for these quoyfrels: neuer were we so ferrited befoze, swowones we can no longer look into the streets, but these shoomakers haue vs by the eares: a pox on it that euer we medled with the rascals: shld they be as unluckie to be met, as a Hare on a iorney, oz a sergeant on a Sunday morning, for euer one mischiese oz other followes it, Captaine Strangwidge (quoth he) there is no other shift but to seek their friendship, otherwise we are in danger every houre to be inaimed, therefore to keep our lims sound againe we go to Sea, tis best to finde meanes to quiet this grudge.

Then said Strangwidge, it were good to do so, if a man knew how: but you may be sure they will not easily be intreated, seeing we haue so mightily abused them in speech. Thus they cast in their mindes diuers times by what meanes they might be reconciled: and albeit they sent diuers their friends unto spasser Peachie, and by his mean, yet they would not yeld, noz give consent to be appeased, noz to put up such wrong as they had receiued without further rebenge: so that the Captaines were at length constrained to make sute to the Duke of Suffolk to take up the matter: who most honozably performed their request: and so the grudge ended betwixt them, to the great credit of spasser Peachie, and all his men.

How Harrie Nevell, and Tom Drum came to serve *Peachey* of Fleet-street.



The same of *Peachey*, running through England by meanes of the frapes which he and his men had with *Stureley* and *Strangwidge*, it made many of that occupation desirous to come and dwell with him, soz beside that he was a tall man of his hands, he was also an excellent good workman, & therewithall a bonnifull house keeper. Among many other that was desirous of his service, there was one called *Tom Drum*, that had a great minde to be his man, a very odde fellow and one that was soze infected with sin of coggng: this boasting companion sitting on a time sadly at work in his *Wassers Shop* at *Pettwozth*, and seeing the *Sun Shine* very faire, made no moze to doe but suddenly shrowded up *S. Hughes bones*, & taking downe his pike-staffe, clapt his pack at his back, and called for his *Wasser*, who coming into the shop, and seeing his man prepared to be pzauncing abroad, demanded what the matter was that he followed not his businesse.

Wasser, qud. he, see you not how sweetly the *Sun Shines*, & how trimly the trees are deckt with green leaves? Well & how then quoth his *Wasser*: *Warry sir* quoth he, having a great mind to heare the small birds sing, and seeing the weather fitter to walk then to work, I called you sozth to take my leave and to bid you farewell, I hope sir I have no wager in your hand.

Why no quoth his *Wasser*, thou wilt be sure to take an order for that, and therefore seeing thou wilt be gone, adue. God be with you good master quoth he, and farewell all good fellowses of the gentle craft, and therewith he departed.

The iourneymen of the *Towne* hearing that *Tom Drum* went away, according to their ancient custome they gathered themselves together to drink with him, and to bying him out of town: and to this intent, up they go with him to the signe of the *Crowne*, where they parted not till they had drunk a stand of Ale dzie.

Which being done, they hying him a mile on his way, carrying a gallon of beere with them: & lastly there once againe they drinke to his good health, and to Christians soule: and to all the good fellowes of Herford: which being done, they all took him by the hand, and with hallowing and whooping, so long as they can see him, they bid him a hundred times farewell. So soone as he was gone out of their whooping, the sweat raking in his hand, and the Ale in his head, he trips so light in the highway, that he feels not the ground he goes on: and therefore being in a merry haine, and desirous to drive out the weary way, as he walks he begins thus pleasantly to sing.

The Primrose in the greene Forrest,

the Violets they be gay:

The double Dazies and the rest,

chattrimly decks the way,

Doth move the spirits with brave delights,

whose beauties Darlings be:

With hey trickie, trim goe tricke,

under the greene wood tree.

The singing of this song awaked a young Gentleman whom sorrow had laid asleepe on a greene bank by the high wayes side. Who having unadvisedly displeased his Parents, in a cholericke humour departed from them, betaking himselfe to travel, thereby to try how fortune would favour him abroad: but having now spent all his money, he was in a wofull taking, not knowing what to do, for never had he bene brought up to any trade, whereby he might be able to get a penny at his need. Wherefore being in this distresse, he was fully purposed to go to London, and there to learne some occupation, whereby he might keep himself a true man, and not to be driven to seek succour of his friends.

Now therefore when he heard Tom Drum so trimly tune it on the way, raising himselfe from the sad ground, he awaited his coming, at whose sudden sight Tom Drum started like one that had spied an Adder: & seeing him provided with a good sword and buckler, supposed he had bene one that waited for a fat purse: for which cause he began thus to enter parly with him.

him. Good fellow quoth he,, God giue you good morrow, but ill speed. Why saist thou so quoth Harrie? because said Tom by the good light of the day thou maist see to passe beside me, and that by thy spending ill, I may speed the better: what hast thou such store of money (quoth Harrie) that thou art loath to lose it?

So by my faith quoth he, I haue so little that I cannot spare it: for I assure thee all my store is but one poye pennie, and that thou maist see under my little finger. Why then quoth Harrie if I were minded to assault thee, it should be more to rob thee of thy manhood then thy money: but tell me what pack is that thou bearest at thy back? Marry they be Saint Hughes bones: Saint Hughes bones quoth Harrie, what is that: a kind of commodity said Tom which I cannot misse, for they be my working tooles.

I pray thee said Harrie what occupation art thou? Sir quoth he, I am a Goldsmith that makes rings for womens beles: What meanest thou by that said Harrie? I am quoth Tom of the gentle Craft, vulgarly called a Shomaker.

The happier thou art quoth Harrie that thou hast a trade to liue by, for by that means thou carriest credit with thee in euery place: but tell me good friend, what is thy name, and how far dost thou trauell this way? Sir quoth he, I trauell to the next towne, but my sojney is to London, & as for my name I am not ashamed to shew it: For my name is a Poluine (substantiue that may be felt, heard, or understood, & to speak the truth I am called: whose there, I trust sir you ask for no hurt, you are no Bayliffe nor Bayliffs man, are ye? no not I said Harrie: Gods blessing on you quoth he, I loue you the better: for I was neuer so fraid lest my Hostesse of the George in Petworth had sent you for to arrest me, for I think I owe her some ten Croats of the score, set up in very faire Chalk, as one of the principals of her house is able to testifie: but I pray God send her meat, for I verily think I shall neuer send her monie. But yet quoth Harrie, I know not how to call your name: verily said he, I am called Thomas Drum, or Tom Drum chuse you whether: Well Thomas quoth Harrie, I perceiue thou art a man & a good fellow, therefore I will not be strange to open my ned unto thee.

I have bene unto my parents untoward, and more then that : not knowing when I was well : wistfully I came from them : and now that I have spent all my money and tooke my selfe out of credit, I have bitterly unsworne my selfe, for I am not worth a groat, nor no man will trust me for two pence. When then quoth Tom, thou art not worth so much as goodman Luters lame nagge : for my Lord of Northumberland's huntsman would have given halfe a Crowne for him to have fedde his dogges : notwithstanding be of good chere, if thou wilt goe to London with me, I will beare the charges, and I faith at the next tyme we will be merr and have good chere.

Alas quoth Harry, how can that be, foring you have but one penny : I tell thee what quoth Tom, wert thou a Shoemaker as I am, thou mightst goe with a single penny under thy finger, and travell all England over, and at every good towne have both meate and drinke and lodging of the best, and yet have thy penny in pocke, as when we come to Guilford you shall soon see. Well be me quoth Harry, that is more then any tradesmen in England els can doe.

Thus quoth Tom, Shoemakers will not see one another lacke, for it is our life it were knowe of a good fellowe that comes to towne, wanting either meate or money, and that he make himselfe knowne, he shall neede to take no further care, for he shall be sure that the journeyemen of that place will not onely give him kinde welcome, but also provide him all things necessary of free cost : And if he be disposed to worke among them, he shall have a spatter provided by their meanes, without any rate made by himselfe at all. Wistly quoth Harry, thou dost ravish me with the good report of thy passing kind and curious trade, and I would spend part of my gentle blood, to be of the gentle Craft : and so the curtesie if thou wouldst teach it me, I would annoint thee a gentleman for ever : Will thou say and hold quoth Tom, O yes hang me said Harry, then said he annoint me a Gentleman, and I will chape thee for a Shoemaker straight. Whereupon Harry tooke his knife, and cutting his finger, all so threatned Tom, Drims fare with his blood, that hee made him look like the Image of Byrd-strate corner,

ner. or rather like th: Sarazines head without a new-gate.

Tom Drum, seeing him doe so, said he might by that means as well annoint him a Joyner, as a Gentleman: Say said Harry, I do not deceiue thee I warrant thee, seeing this blood did spring from a Gentleman. if thou wilt not beleue me, aske all the men in the towne-Malin, and they will say the like.

Tell Ile take thy word quoth Tom. And therefore looke that presently thou strip thy selfe, for I will cast thee in a Shoemakers mould by and by: Harry perceiving his meaning did what he wished, and so he was futed in Toms attires, and Tom hit his, so that Harry boze the pike staffe and Saint-Hughes bones: and Tom swaggered with his sword and buckler; and coming in this sort to Gilford, they were both taken for Shoemakers, and very hartely welcomed by the journey-men of that place, especially Harry, because they neuer saw him before: And at their meeting they askt him and if he could sing, or sound the Trumpet, or play on the Flute, or reckon up his toles in rime, or manfully handle his pike staffe, or fight with a sword and buckler? beleue me quoth Harry, I can neither sound the Trumpet, nor play on the Flute: and besides his nose that made me a Shoemaker, for he neuer taught me to reckon up my toles in rime nor in prose.

Tom hearing him say so, told them that he made him of an old serving man, a new shoemaker: And then was that (quoth they) marry saith he, when I was annointed a Gentleman, I thought this face ran therein, that I haue gentle blood about me: Tell by then quoth they thou art but a painted Gentleman, but we must account this young man wise, that to auoid misery betakes himselfe to follow misery, for cunning continueth when fortune striceth, but it will be hard for such as neuer were brought vnto the bodilly labour to frame their fine fingers to any coarse faculty.

Not a whit quoth Harry, for labour by custome becommeth easie. Thou saist true said Tom, I durst pay a good wages I haue made more shoes in one day then all the journey-men here haue done in a month: with that one of the journey-men began to chafe, saying, how many a paire of shoes hast thou made in a day?

day : I made quoth Tom, when the daies were at longest, eight
score paire of Shoes in one day.

Oh monstrous detestable lye. (quoth they) and thereupon one
ran into the chimney and cried, come againe Clement, come a-
gaine. Whom callst thou quoth Tom, I call Clement carry lye,
that runnes Poste betwixt the Turke, and the Deuill; that he
may take his full loading ere he goe, for the best journeyman that
euer I knew, never made aboue ten paire in a day in his life:
and I will lay my whole yeres wages with thee, that thou
canst not make twenty paire in a day, as they ought to be: I
should be ashamed but to doe as much as another, and I neuer
saw him yet that could out worke me, yet dare not I take upon
me to make a dozen paire of Shoes in a day: but it is an old
saying, they brag most that can doe least. Why thou Iuppie
quoth Tom, thou house Woe, thou Cricket, that neuer crept
further then the chimney corner, tell me what Countries hast
thou travelled?

Far enough quoth he, to probe as good a work-man as thou
art: I deny that quoth Tom, for I have been where I have sene
men headed like Dogs, and women of the same shape, where if
thou hadst offered them a kisse, they would have bene ready to
have snapt off thy nose: other some I have sene, that one of their
legs hath bene as good as a penthouse to cover their whole bodies,
and yet I have made them shewes to serue their sex: which I am
sure thou couldest neuer do: nay if thou wilt go with me, if thou
seest me not make an hundred paire of shewes from sun rising, to
sun setting, count me worse then a thinking spackrell. Now
berisly thy talke stinks too much (quoth they) and if thou canst
do so, neuer make further journey, but try the matter here.

I tell you quoth Tom, I cannot try it in England, nor yet in
France, Spaine, Italy, nor in any part of the low countries, nor
in high Germany, Swea: hland, Polonia. We think no lesse
(quoth they) nor in any part of the world bestbe. Yes quoth Tom,
I can do it as we trauell to Russia, for there every day is sixe
and fiftie of our dayes in length: nay Ile tell you further quoth
Tom, in some parts of the world where I have bene, it is day
for halfe a yeare together, and the other halfe yeare is continually

night: and goe no further quoth he but in to the further part of Scotland, and you shall find one day there (in the month of June) to besoure and sixty honres long: and therefore my Masters to the you like, take heed how you contrary a traveler, for therein you shall but be to say your owne ignorance: and make your selves mocking stockes to men of knowledge. And travelers (quoth they) uncontrouled, have liberty to offer what lies they list.

Masters tell me quoth Tom, were you not borne in Arcadia? No (quoth they) but why aske you: because said Tom, that countrey doth moze abound in plenty of Asles, where they swarme as thicke as Bees. In Cicily we have cause to giue you thanks (quoth they) for calling us Asles so kindly: not so said Tom, I do but aske a question; but seeing you are so cunning, tell me what Countrey breeds the best Hides, and Leather, and from whence have we the best Cozke: our best Cozke comes from Portugall quoth they, but the best Leather grows in our owne land: I deny it quoth Tom, there is I confesse good Cozke in Portugall, but the best grows in Sparta; but for Hides and Leather there is none comparable to that in Siciona: where I have made a man a paire of shooes that hath lasted him a twelue month to toyle in every day. O tis a gallant Countrey, for I tell you what, there is neuer a Shomaker in England that kept so many men as I did at that time.

Then said the rest, thou speakest thou knowest not what: Master Peachy of Fleetstreet keeps continually forty men a woork, and the great King of Saint-Martins hath at this time little lesse then threescore journey men.

Then is pretty well quoth Tom, but what say you to him that for halfe a yere together, kept waiting on him above a hundred men that neuer did him Ritch of woork: this was a Shomaker of some account: but who was that quoth they? Harry quoth Tom, simple though I stand here, it was my selfe, and yet I neuer made bzags of it. O what a Shamelesse Iyer art thou quoth they, we neuer knewe thee able to keep one man. No to by this bread said Tom, you do me mighty wrong, & were it not that ye be all of this gentle Craft, which science I doe so greatly to be
and

and reuerence, this Iohn and Steele should make it good upon
your self: for I tell you once againe, I haue bene Master of
an hundred men, and put fiftene score to the hundred: I pray
you tell us (quoth they) what men were they? what men
were they quoth Tom, they were vermin: in troth quoth they
we thought as much, and we commend you for telling truth,
and we suppose if you were well learcht we should find twenty
vermin waiking on you still. But tell vs Tom, art thou min-
ded to be Master Peachies man? I am quoth he except he will
make me his fellow. By the Masse (quoth they) then wert thou
best to haue thy wards ready, and thy bills sure, for he receiues
no servant before he tries his man-hood; so much the better
quoth Tom, and for that purpose I poste up to London. Thus
hauing had at Gilford very good chare, the journey-men of the
towne paid for all, and beside gave them money in their purses
to spend by the way, and so toward London they went with all
speed.

CHAP. 7.

How the wilde Knight Sir Iohn Rainsford for burying a Mas-
sing Priest alive, was faine to leave his Lady, and forsake his
house, till he had obtained his pardon of the King: who
meeting with Henfy Nevell, and Tom Drum, went with him
to serue Peachy of Fleetstreet, where for a while he became
a Shoemaker.



On shall understand that at this time there liued
a gallant Knight called Sir Iohn Ransford, who
was for his courage and vallant heart inferiour
to few men liuing he kept a house full of men, and
a brabe company of tall men to waite upon him.
To all the poore roundabout where he dwelt, he was very cha-
ritable, relieving them daily both with money, and meate; he
was a famous Courtier, and in great fauour with the King, and
the onely thing that disgraced his vertues, was this, that he
was something wild in behauiour, and willfull in his attempts,
often repenting sadly what he committed rashly.

It came to passe upon a time, that as this couragious Knight
was riding home to his own house, there was at a certain vil-
lage,

lage, a coypz carried to be buried, the deceased father of five small children and the late husband of a twofull widow, whose poverty was such, that she had no money to pay for his buriall: which thing Sir John the parish Priest doubting, would not by any meanes doe his duty to the dead man, except he might first have his money.

The widow and her children, with many teares intreated him to do his office, but he would not be perswaded, saying:

What you beggers, would you have me open my sacred lips to invocate and call upon the King of Heaven, to receive thy husbands soule, and to perswade our great Grandmother the earth to wrap his cold body in her warme bosome, for nothing: I tell thee no: first shall his soule trie in the flames of purgatory, till it be as thin as a pancake, and his body remaine above ground till the Crows have pickt his carrion carcasse to the bare bones: and therefore leave your pining, and praise no more, least you make me as chollericke as a quail; and there withall, as he was going away, the poore widow falling on her knees, pluckt him by the gowne, saying, : god Sir John, for swēt Saint Charity, say one Ave Maria, or one Pater noster, and let my poore husbands coypz be conered, though it be but with one handfull of holy ground.

Ray Dame quoth he, do you remember at the last Christ how you serbed me? you would not, no forsooth you would not: and now god spittis I will not: no penny, no Pater noster, that is that: I pray you now se if your honesty be sufficient to keepe your husband from the Crows. I thought a time would come at length to cry quittance for your coyne: and with that word away he went.

The poore widow seeing his obstinacy, with a heavy heart turned into the high wayes side, which was hard adioyning to the Church-yard, and there she and her children wofully begged of the passers by, some money to bury their fathers dead body.

At last Sir John, came riding withall his men, of whom the poore widow in this manner began to Aske his almes: god Sir quoth she, if ever womans misery moved your heart to pittie, give me one penny for Gods sake, toward the burying of my poore

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poore husband : in like manner the childzen cried , saying , one penny for Christ his sake , good Maister one penny . Sir Iohn , hearing their lamentable cry , and seeing the dead corpes lying there , asat why the Priest did not bury it ?

¶ Sir Knight quoth he , I have no money to pay for the burfall : and therefore the Priest will not doe it . So quoth Sir Iohn : by Gods blessed mother I sweare , Ile make him bury the dead or Ile bury him my selfe : whereupon he tolled one of his men presently to goe to the Parsonage for the Priest , and to bring him thither immediately , his men did so , and shortly came Sir Iohn , in his gowne and cozner cap , roughly demanding who would speake with him ?

¶ That would I quoth Sir Iohn Rainesford : therefore tell me , how comes it to passe , that according to order you put not this dead corpe into the pit : Sir , quoth he , because according to order they will not pay me for my paines .

¶ Above all men quoth Sir Iohn , Priests should respect the poore , and charitably regard the state of the needy , because they themselves doe teach charity to the people , and perswade men unto works of mercy : and therefore Sir Iohn , saying good daies are meritorious , doe you win heaven by this good work . let the dead possesse their due : I so they shall , said the Priest . so I may not loose my due : for I tell you further , I count it little better then folly , to fill my soule with pleasure by emptying my purse with coine : wilt thou not bury him said the Knight : No not without money said the Priest : I pray thee said the Knight let me intreat thee for this time to doe it , because the woman is poore . Then let me intreat you to pay me quoth the Priest , because you are rich . Sir Iohn Rainesford seeing him stand so peremptory on his points , sware a deep oath , that it were best for him to bury him , or quoth he , Ile bury thee ; bury me said the Priest a fig for you , and bury blind bayard when he is dead , or the dogs that your Hanks will not eate . The Knight at these wordes being marvellous angry commanded his men to take him up & cast him into the grave : his men made no moore to do , but presently upon their spallers tooke up the Priest , and wrapping him round in his gowne , put him quicke into the grave , and the

rest

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rest cast earth upon him as fast as they could, at what time the Priest cried out, hold, hold, for Gods sake, let me rise and I will bury him. Say soft words the knight, thou art not like to rise, no rising here before the generall resurrection, that thou shalt rise to judgement, and therefore quicke as he was they buried him, which being done, he commanded the Sexton to make another grave for the dead man, and sending for another Priest, he sat him if he would bury the dead without money, who making twenty legs, shivering and shaking withisare, answered I forsooth with all my heart, for they are knaves and no Christians that will not doe it.

Now when the dead man was buried, the knight gave the poor Widow an angell in gold to comfort her and her children, and so rode his way.

When he came home, he told his Lady what he had done; who greatly grieving thereat, with he had paid for twenty burials, rather then he had made that one buriall. This done now said the knight, and undone it cannot be againe, though with griefe I should kill my selfe.

Now you shall understand, that the Deane of the Diocess, having word hereof, rode up presently to London and made a great complaint thereof unto the King, which when his grace had considered, he was very wroth thereat and therefore sent down pursuivants to apprehend the knight, but he before had forsaken his house, and wandred in disguise up and downe the Countrey. His Lady in the meane space made great suite for his pardon, being therein assisted by divers great Counsellors, and noble Lords, who much lamented the knights case: notwithstanding they could hardly forbear laughing many times when they thought upon this mad prank.

But as Sir Iohn disguisely wandred, he chanced twice Gilford and London to light in the company with Harry Nevell and Tom Drum: But Harry being him well in the face, discerned by his countenance what he was, and maruelling much to see him in such distresse, made himselfe not known, but sound him in this sort.

Say quoth he, whither do you wander this way, or to what place

place trauell you? Gentle yonoth quoth he, stily dost thou aske me whither I wander, seing indeed we doe all but wander in this vale of misery: dost thou demand whither I trauell may rather aske wherefore I trauell, or wherewith I trauell: and then could I haue answered the: (bones quoth Tom, I durst lay a hapozth of Ale, that the Peasant is in labour with lobe.

Ray quoth Sir Iohn, hadst thou said I trauelled with grieve, and that I was in labour with sorow, then hadst thou said right, for I may say to the, I haue had a soze labour continually this month in paine, and yet is not the time of my deliurance come, wherein I should be freed from this untoward child of care: thou dost thinke I was in lobe, I would to God it were so, for while I was in lobe, my dayes ran sozth in pleasant houres, but I am cast off like a lump of earth from the gardeners spade: I lobe, but I am not belobed, but rather hated and despised.

Thus quoth Tom, bysole these folish passions, for He tell the what hunger asswageth lobe, and so doth time, but if thou be not able to doe any of these, then to take an halter, which if thou dost ble as it ought, if euer thou complaine moze, of sorow or care, neuer trust my word for a cupple of blacke puddings.

Welike, said Sir Iohn, thou hast been some hangman that thou art so cunning in the nature of an halter: but howsoeuer thou accountest it good, yet it is an ill word soure times a yéar at Pewgate, and as small comfozt is it to me to heare it rehearst at this time.

Indeed said Harry, these are unsanory tearmes to be spoken to a sorowfull man: neither haue any of us great cause to be merry at this méeting, considering the hard cases we are in, that are both masterlesse, and moneylesse, which if God doe not sone send us, will cause our sodaine misery.

With that the Knight turning his head, pluckt his hat to his eyes to hide the teares that trickled down his face, saying, I my masters, want of money cannot make a man miserable, if he haue health and liberty, to worke for his liuing, but indeed the frotones of a good master, the displeasure of a good master, the hate of a good master, may easily make a serbant miserable, as by mine owne experience I haue sen, & to my grief but lately felt.

What man, be blith said Tom, and neber griebe so much for the ill will of a paster. God kepe me from being of thy mind, for if I should have grieved at the ill will of every paster that I habeserned, I verely thinke I should have kild a proper man long ere this; for I am sure I have had as many pasters, as there are market townes in England, and yet perhaps quoth Harry, none so good a paster as his was.

Never did man speake truer word said the knight, for he was to me good kind and liberall, but howsoever he hath banisht me his house, yet shall my heart serue him while I live: now doth it come in my mind, how happy they are that live in his favour: how blessed they be that enjoy his presence; were my head once againe shadowed under his faire rose, it would expell all unquiet thoughts, which like milstones presseth downe my hearts comfort.

What, would you goe dwell with him againe quoth Tom: he tobat a base mind doe you beare; were it to me, by this flesh and blood, I would rather run as far as Ierusalem to see a paster. Tom, Tom (said the knight) I know this; wealth makes men lofty, but want makes men lowly, and commonly gentle. Pastors have proud servants, but had I bene as wise, as I was willfull, I might have led a happy life, but if feares might satisfie for mine offence, I would quickly recouer his favour.

Whereupon the wofull knight would have parted their company, but Harry secretly conferring with him had knowledge how his griefe grew, and making themselves known the one to the other, agreed to goe to London together, and there to try what fortune would befall them.

The knight took great comfort by this conference, and having store of gold about him, made them great chere at Kingstons, and in the end was content to take their counsaile: and comming into Fleet-strete, Tom Drum brought them to Peachies house, where such meane was made: that at last upon the tryall of their manhood, they were all entertained; and so well Peachy liked of Sir Iohn, that he thought he should not be his man, but his fellow.

Within short time after the French-men had landed in the
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gle of might, about two thousand men of warre, who burned and spoiled the Countrey very sore. for which cause the King had made ready an army of men to goe thither. Peachy at his owne proper cost, set forth thirty of his owne servants, well armed at all essays, and himselfe as Captaine over them mustred before the King: who liked so well of them, that he chose out seaven of that company for his owne Guard; at what time Sir Iohn, in disguised manner shewed there such good service, that thereby he won his Majesties high favour, and was by him most graciously pardoned. Peachy was hereupon made the Kings Bow-maker. who lived long after in great favour and estimation, both with his Majesty, & all the honourable Lords of the Court.

CHAP. 8.

Of Tom Drums vants, and his rare intertainment at Mistris Farmers house, the faire Widdow of Fleet-street.



Here lived in Fleet-Street at this time a faire Widdow, who was famous for her beauty, as she was esteemed for her wealth, she was beloved of many Gentlemen, and sued unto by divers Citizens, but so deepe was the memory of her late husband ingrauen in her heart, that she utterly refused marriage leading a sober and solemne life.

Harry Nevell having his heart fired with the bright beams of this blazing Comet, sought all meanes possible to quench the beate thereof with the fountaines of her labourable curtesie: and lacking meanes to bring himselfe acquainted with so curious a piece, betwaxed by his outward eyes, his inward sorrows: which upon a time, Tom Drum perceiving, demanded the cause of his late conceived griefe, saying, How now Hall, what wind blowes so bleake on your cheekes now? tell me mad wag, hath Cupid and you had a combate lately? why lookest thou so sad? hath the blind Gabe given thee a bloody nose, or a broken head? Oh, no Tom quoth he, that little tyrant aimes at no other part but the heart, therefore tis my heart, and not my head that bleeds. With whom Hall, with whom art thou in love, tell me man: it may be I may pleasure thee more in that matter then my Lord spajor: therefore I say Harry say who is it? never be afraid
man

man to unbuckle your Budget of close counsell to me, for if I be to say your secrets call me dogs-nose, and spit in my face like a young killing.

I tell thee Harry, I am holden in greater account among women then you are aware, and they will moze willingly shew their secrets to me then to their ghostly father: But art thou so in favour with fine wenches quoth Harry?

I saith Sir I, quoth Tom, and I tro I have not liued thus long, but I know how to make a woman love me, by a cunning trick that I have: I durst lay my life, I will make a dozen maids runne after me twenty miles for one nights lodging, striding, who should first bestow her maiden-head on me.

That trick surpasses of all that ever I heard quoth Harry.

May quoth Tom, He tell thee once what a merry prank I plaide, God forgive me for it: upon a time on a Saturday in the morning, I went into East-cheape of purpose to see what pretty wenches came to market, where I saw a great many as fresh as flowers in May, tripping up and down the streets with handbaskets in their hands, in red stamell petticoates, cleane neckerchers and fine holland aprons as white as a lily: I did no moze but carry the right leg of a Turtle under my left arme, and immediately the wenches were so enamoured with my sight that they forsooke the butchers shops, and infused me into a Tavern, where they spent all the money they should have laid out at market, onely to make me merry: and never had I so much to doe, as to be rid of their company, where they were ready to fall together by the eares, for the kisses they would have bestowed upon me.

But it may be quoth Harry, your art would saile me now, to help your friend at a dead list: not so said Tom, and therefore if there be any in this street that thou hast a mind unto, thou shalt carry but the head of a dead crow about thee, & it shall be of force to bring her to thy bed, were it fine Mistress Farmer her self. But art thou acquainted with her quoth Harry, or dost thou thinke thou couldst prefer a friend to her speech? I quoth Tom, why I tell thee I am moze familiar with her then with Doll our kitchen-budge: why man she will doe any thing at my request, nay, I can command her in some sort, for I tell thee

She will not scant be seen in the street, though some would give her twenty pound for every step, and I did but slightly request her to walke into the fields with me, and straight she went, and I never come into the house, but I have such entertainment as no man hath the like: for as soone as ever she sees me set footing on her checkquerd pavement, presently with a smiling looke, she meets me halfe way, saying, what my friend Tom-Dum? honest Thomas, by my Christian soule, hartly welcome: then straight a chair and a cushion is fetcht for me, and the best chere in the house is set on the table, and then sitting downe by my side in her silken gowne, she shakes me by the hand and bids me welcome, and so laying meate on my trencher with a silver forke she wishes me frolicke, at what time all the secrets of her heart she imparts unto me, craving my opinion in the premisse. I assure the said Harry, those are high labours, well be to say- ing the great friendship that she beares the, and I much mar- vell that thou being a young man, wilt not take a wife that is so wealthy, and so make thy selfe samons, by marrying Epistris Farmer: for it is likely she could well away to make him her husband, to whom she opens her hearts secrets.

It is true quoth Tom, and I know that if I spoke but halfe a word she would never deny me: nay she would spend ten of her twelve silver Apostles, on condition I would vouchsafe to be her husband. But wot you what Harry, it is well known though Billies be faire in the w, they be foule in smell, and women as they are beautifull so are they deceitfull: beside, Epistris Farmer is too old for me.

Too old quoth Harry: why man she is not so old as charyng- Grosse for her gate is not crooked, nor her face withered: but were she an hundred yeare old, having so strong a body and so faire a face she were not in my opinion much to be mislike: yet in my conscience I thinke, since first her faire eyes beheld the bright sunne, she never tasted the fruites of twenty flourishing Somers: nor scant felt the nipping frostes of nineaine cold winters, and therefore her age need be no hurt to her marriage. He tell the my mind quoth Tom, after a woman is past fiftene yeres old, I will not give fiftaine blew buttons for her: but tell me

me Harry, dost thou like her? if thou dost say so, and I will warrant her thy owne.

Gentle Tom Drum quoth Harry, the true figure of unfained friendship, and the assured spap of manhood, doe but prefer me to her acquaintance, and I will request no greater curtelle. Here is my hand quoth Tom. It shall be done, and on Thursday at night next we will goe thither, and then thou shalt see whether Tom Drum can command any thing in Mistresse Farmers house or no. The day being thus set downe, Harry had prepared himselfe a faire sute of apparell against the time, and beside had bought certaine gifts to bestow on the faire Widdow: Tom Drum in like sort had dressed himselfe in the best manner he might, still bearing Harry in hand that none in the world should be better welcome then he to the Widdow: which God wot was nothing so, for she never respected him but onely for the shooes he brought her: but you shall see how it fell out. The day being come, Tom taking Harry by the hand, and coming to the Widdows doore, took hold on the Bell and rung thereat so lustily, as if he had bene bound seaven yeares Wrentle to a Sexton: whereupon one of the Wrentles came straight to the doore, saying, who is there? Mirra, quoth Tom Drum, tis I, open the doore; the fellow seeing it to be Tom Drum, with a frown asked him what he would have: who answered, he would speake with his Mistris. My Mistris is busie quoth the fellow, cannot I doe your errand? No marry can you not quoth Tom, I must speak with her my selfe: then stay a little quoth the boy, and I will tell, and with that in he went, leaving Tom still at the doore, where they sate till their feet were cold befoze the boy returned. By the Masse quoth Harry, whatsoeber your credit with the Mistris is I know not, but the curtelle is small that is she woe you by her man: Cull quoth Tom, what will you have of a rude unmannerly boy? if any of the Maids had come to the doore, we had bene long ere this brought to their Mistris presence: therefore once againe I will use the help of the Bell-rope.

At his second ringing, out comes one of the Maids, saying with a shrill voyce: who the Devil is at the doore, that keeps such a ringing? why you queane quoth he, tis I, what Tom Drum

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Drum quoth she, what would you have : I would speak with your mistress quoth he : trust me said the maid, you cannot speake with her now, she is at supper with two or three that are sutors Master Doctor, Burker is one, and Master Alderman Larvice the other : but quoth Tom tell me not of sutors, but tell her that I am here, then good enough : well I will quoth she, and with that, claps to the doze againe, and keepe them still without. This geare worke but ill-fabouredly, yet said Harry and you are little beholding either to the men, or to the maids, for ought that I see : that will not shew you so much labour to stay within dozes : tis no matter, Harry quoth he, but if their mistress should know this, she would swinge their coats lustily for it : and with that, one of the bayes opening the dooze, told Tom that his mistress would have him send up his errand, blood quoth he, is she so steele that she will not come downe : I haue seene the day when she would haue bin glad to haue spoken with me : I quoth the fellow, it may be so, when you haue brought her a new paire of shoes, that hath pincht her at the toes. Come Harry said Tom, I will take the paines for this once to goe up to her, by my faith but you shall not say the fellow, and therefore keepe you backe for you come not in here : Tom Drum seeing himselfe thus disgrac'd before his fellow Harry (being very angry) askt if this were the best entertainment that they could afford their mistresses Friends : And therewithall began to struggle with them : which their mistress hearing, started from the table, and suddenly came to see what the matter was : who being certified of Tom Drums sawcinesse began thus sharply to check him, why fellow quoth she art thou mad, that thus uncivilly thou behavest thy selfe : what hast thou to say to me, that thou art thus importunate : no hurt quoth he, but that this gentleman and I would haue bestowed a galland of wine to haue had three or foure houres talke with you.

I tell thee said she, I am not now at leisure, and therefore god honestly trouble me no more : neither is it my wont to be won with wine at any time : gods Lord quoth he are you gotten so coy : if you and I were alone I know I should finde you more milde : what must no man but Doctor, Burker call your
water :

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water : is his Whiske in most request : well I meane to be better entertained ere I goe , for there is neuer a Felming of them all shall out face me . by the moztow Masse I sweare . Mistress Farmer seeing him so furious , answered he should have present entertainment according to his desert ; whereupon she made no more to doe , but quietly went to her servants , and willed them to thrust him out by the head and shoulders : which presently they performed . But Harry was by her very modestly answered , that if he had occasion of any speech with her , the next day he should come and be patiently heard and gently answered : with which words after she had drunke to him in a gobblet of Claret wine , he departed , and going home he told Tom Drum he was highly beholding to him for his curtesie in preferring his sute to Mistress Farmer : surely quoth he , you are in very high labour with the faire woman , and so it seemed by your great entertainment : I pray thee Tom tell me how tasted the meat which she set on thy trencher with her silver sorker : and what secret was that she told in thy eare ? trust me thou art precious in her eyes , so : she was as glad to see thee , as one had given her a rush , for when after many hot wordes she heard thee draw thy breath so short , she for very pittie tumbled thee out into the street to take more ayre : well quoth Tom , stoupe on , but I am well enough served , He say my life had I not brought thee with me , never a man should have had more welcome then I : and now I consider with my selfe that it did anger her to the heart when she saw I was purposed to make another copartner of her presence : but it shall teach me wit while I live , for I remember an old saying , love and Lordship brookes no fellowship ; but when this matter was made known to the rest of the journeyemen , Tom Drums entertainment was spoke of in every place , inasmuch that it is to this day a proverb amongst us , that where it is supposed a man shall not be welcomed , they will say he is like to have Tom Drums entertainment . And to avoid the frowns that were daily given him , poore Tom Drum sorker Fleet-street , and at last went into Scotland , being prest for a Drummer at Muskelbrough field , where the noble Duke of Sommerfet & the Earle of Warwick were sent with a noble army where Englishmen

men and Scots making, there was fought a cruell battle, the victory whereof fell to the Englishmen: at what time there was slaine of the Scots to the number of 14. Thousand, and fiftene hundred taken prisoners, where we will leave Tom Drum till his returne, making mention how Harry Nevell behaved himselfe in the meane space in London.

CHAP. 9.

How Harry Nevell wooed Mistris Farmer and deceived Doctor Burket: and how they were both beguiled by a Prentice that dwelt in the house, who in the end married her.



Mistris Farmer stirring the hearts of many with her beauty, was wond'rously loved by Doctor Burket, who would give unto her divers rich gifts, the which though they were faire and costly, yet Mistris Farmer would hardly accept them, but even what he in a manner by force constrained her to take, least by his cunning he should insert therein some matter more then ordinary, that might move any motion of love, contrary to her naturall inclination: upon a time Harry Nevell coming thither, and finding the Doctor very diligent to buye the Willdows content, whereby he greatly hindered his proceedings, cast in his mind how he might disburden the house of the Doctor and get opportunity to prefer his owne sute. At last lightning on a device fit for the purpose, in this sort he delt with the Doctor; there was an Egyptian woman that at Black-wall was in travell with child, and had such hard labour, that she was much lamented among all the wives that dwelt thereabout. Harry Nevell considering that way, and hearing thereof, thought it a fit matter to employ Doctor Burket about, while in the meane space he might the better be, to say his affection to the Willdow.

Whereupon he sent one to him attyred like a serving man, hooded and spurred, who coming to the Willdows house all in a sweate, laid load on the doore demanding for Master Doctor: what would you with him quoth one of the waihs: marry quoth he, my Lady Sunborne hath sent for him in all post haste, and therefore I pray you let me speake with him. I will pre-

lently doe your errand said the maid, whereupon running up she told him that my Lady Swinborne hath sent a messenger in very great hast to speake with him. Doctor Burket hearing that, and being well acquainted with the Lady Swinborne, took leaue of the Widdow & went to the messenger, saying how now good fellow, what would my good Lady haue with me? & it said the messenger, she would desire you if euer you did tender the life of a Lady, to make no delay, but presently to put your selfe a horse back, & come to her, for she is wondrous sick: I am sorry for that said the Doctor, & surely I will make all speed possible to come to her: whereupon the Doctor tooke horse and immediatly went with the servingman. Harry hearing of his departure, came to the Widdow with a smiling countenance and thus merily began to wooe her.

Now Mistress Farmer, happy it is that a young man once in a moneth may find a moment of time to talk with you: truth it is that your good graces haue greatly bound me in affection to you, so that onely above all the women in the world I haue selled my delight in your love, & if it shall please you to requite my good will with the like kindnesse, I shall account my birth day blessed, & remaine your faithfull friend for euer. Gentle man quoth she, for your good will, I thank you, but I would haue you understand, that the lesse you love me, the better I shall like you, for your delights & mine are not alike, I haue selled my fancy on a single life, being a Widdow unmeete to marry, & unapt to loue: once indeed I had learned that lesson, but my schole master being untimely dead that taught me, I grew forgetfull of all those principles & then I sware neuer to follow that study more: wherefore if you will become a faithfull friend to me, let me be assured thereof by this, that from henceforth you will not any more trouble me with this matter, & thereby you shall bind me to think this the better of you while I know you: & doe not think I speak this of any affection proceeding from my self to any other, or for the desire of any benefit proffered by any other to me.

Faire Mistress quoth Harry, I know it is the custome of women to make their denials into their louers, & it is to stand on nice points, because they will not be accounted easily won.

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o; some entreated: alack deere Dame consider nature bid nota-
doyme your face with such incomparable beauty, & franted ebery
other part so full of excellency, to wound men with wo, but to
wozke their content.

Wherfore now in the Aprill of your yeares, & the sweet sum-
mer of your dayes, binish not the pleasures incident to bright
beauty, but honour London streets with the faire fruite of your
womb: & make me blessed by being father to the issue of your de-
licate body: & though your beauty as the spring doth yet yearly
grow, yet in the black winter of old age it will not be so. & we see
by daily experience, that flowers not gathered in thim rot & con-
sume themselves: wherfore in my opinion you should doe the
world intollerable wrong to lve like a scutillike fligtre.

Say then Sir quoth he, I perceiue you will grow trouble-
some, and shew your selfe no such man as you prolesse your
selfe: and seeing among many I request but one thing at your
hands, and you refuse to doe it for my sake. I may say your friend-
ship is moze in words then in works: wherfore I perceiue I
must be constrained to call my spain for a cup of hopping bare
ere you will depart.

Say as Sir quoth he, I will save you that labour. seeing your
love commands me, & I pray God grant you a moze laboura-
ble mind at our next meeting, & with these words he departed.

Now you shall understand, that this gallant widdow had in
her house a very proper youth which was one of her apprentices.
who had a long time borne his spirit's great god will: where-
upon he became so diligent & carefull about all things committed
to his charge, that thereby he won much commendations among
all the neighbours, & was for the same highly esteemed of his spi-
rit's: who after he had long concealed his grief at last unburden-
ed himselfe of so ne sorrow, by making a friend privy to his pas-
sions, who comforted him in this sort: truly in requoth be, what
though he be thy spirit's, & thou her present selfe, be not ashamed to
shew thy affection to her: she is a woman, wise & modest, and one
that howeuer she answers thy demand, will not thinke worse of
the for thy god will: therefore fry her, thou knowest not
howe fortune may labour thy sute, and for we it is the can

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but say the may: & quoth he, if I were out of my years, I could have some heart to love her, but having yet thre quarters of a yere to set be, it may be some hindrance to my fradome if she should prove frostward.

To shew stand not on those teares, said his friend Francis, she will never requite a kindness with such discomfesse, and therefore William prove not a fool by being so sore-will.

On my deare friend Francis, quoth he, how can I suppose I should spend well, seeing the disvains Doctor Barker, and refuses Master Alderman, & will shew no countenance to gallant Master Nevell; what a bad reason is this quoth Francis, some cannot abide to eate of a pig: some to taste of an Oyle, other some are sicke if they see but a Crab, and divers cannot away with chesse; yet none of them all but doe like by their bitnats, every man hath his fancy, & every woman will follow her own mind, and therefore though she find not an Alderman nor a Doctor for her diet yet she may think William her man a fit morsell for her. on toke I into quoth William, thy reasons are good, and I have advantage above all other suiters to take in my fate, being sit the house daily with her, and every evening when they are alone beside the hath appointed me this after noon to come to her Closet, that I may shew her my reckoning and accounts: & in what sort her state standeth: wherefore seeing I have such occasion, I will no longer trifle out the time but so soon as that business is ended, put my selfe to the hazard of my happy fortune: wherefore good Francis farewell till I see thee againe, & how I spend, at our next meeting thou shalt know. The time at last being come that Mistris Farmer had appointed to have her books cast over, getting into her closet she inhibited for her Maids, & bad her call up William, quoth the let him bring his books of account with him: she maids bid as her Mistris commanded, & up comes William with his books under his armes: & after he had very reverently done his duty to his Mistris, she bad him sit downe saying, now William let me see these reckonings justly cast up, for it is long since I have cast an eye into mine estate. Mistris quoth he, doubt not but your estate is good, and your accounts justly kept for I have had as great regard thereto as the gods had been my owne.

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Therein quoth he I am the more beholding to thee, neither shall thy true service goe unrewarded if I live : or if I dye thou shalt not be altogether forgotten.

These kind speeches greatly comforted Williams heart, whereupon he fell to his reckonings roundly, till his mind running so much on his spirits beauty, sometimes he would misse and count thre-score, and four-score, nine-score : Say there you saile quoth his spirits, and over-fell forty, for thre and fourre is but seaven, thre and foure indeede is seuen (said he) and thre times seaven is nintie and twenty : I tell thee quoth he, tis but one and twenty, to what fellow begin you to dote in your pong yeares?

O my deere spirits said he, blame me not if I doe so, seeing your sweet presence hath made farre wiser then my self to dote : O my good spirits pardon my presumption for being thus bold to murther my hearts grise with you, my heart is sore to your sweet selfe is so great, that except you touch it labourably to censure, and kindly to iudge thereof, that the scorers of my mind will wound my very soule, and make my life so thome unto me.

And therefore my good spirits, despite not your more servant, but yet so much as such succour, as may prolong his dayes with many blessed houres.

His spirits concealing her beauty with lowering browes, like foggy vapours that blot the sun, made him this answer : How much do you, with my too much mildnesse made you thus say : can you let your love at no lower a pitch, but you must needs be master of your spirits?

No spirits quoth he, no master, but your servant for ever. For so, looke your prating quoth he : or I will break thy head I sweare, have I refused as thou seest, a grave and wealthy Alderman that might make me a spirit of worship and dignity, and denied master Doctor of his request. Who as thou knowest is at this daye the cunningest Physician in London, and diverse of her honest and well landed Gentlemen, and among the rest young Master Nevell, whose name say is descended of a noble house, and whose love I dare sweare is to me most firmly devoted, so that in my heart I am perswaded he

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lobes the good the better that I tread in: & should I, (I say) forlake all these to make me for my head, and my seruant my superior to marry the which art a pientice boy?

As Sir Iohn the, seeing you are grown so lusty, tis time to fam: you and looke to your steps: therefore I charge you leaue the shop, and get you into the kitchen to help the wifes to wash the dishes and scowze the Kettles; and whereas since my husbands decease I haue giuen four nobles a yeare to a water bearer, I will make the same due me that charges, so it is well scene, that so long the water Tankard hath bene kept from the lazy shouldrs, and if thou scownest to doe this, get where thou wilt; but if thou wilt remaine with me, so long as thou hast a day to serue, thou shalt be thus employed.

Hereupon she called up her man Richard to supplie his place, and to be fore-man of the shop, granting him with the keyes of the counting house: which William seeing, sadly went out of her sight, wofully to himselfe bewailling his hard fortune, but yet such was his love to his mistress, that he rather chose to be budgee in her kitchen, then to change her service for any other. All the seruants in the house much minded at this alteration: but to no creature did his mistress tell the cause thereof, but kept it secret to her selfe: to ward the evening, with he must needs goe for water, at what time he wanted no doubts of all his fellows, nor of many of the neighbours seruants: where meeting with his friend Francis, discoursed to him the whole cause of his disgrace: he greatly chiding thereat, perswaded him neuer to endure such base budgeery, but rather to seek preierment in some other place.

Notwithstanding William would not follow his counsell, but rather chose patiently to abide all hums night being come, and supper ended, William was set to performe his penance for his presumption in love, that is to say, to scrape the trenchers, scowze the kettles and spits, and to wash up the dishes: which he went about with such good will, that it seemed to him rather a pleasure then a paine.

His mistress closett yorning to the kitchen, had a secret place therein to look into the kitchen, were closely sitting, the earnest-

ly beheld her man how he bestired himselfe in his busines :
 whereupon she entered into this consideration wth her selfe.
 How she so; shame, how I li dost; it became me to set to hand
 some a youth to such judgerie : if he boze a mans mind he would
 neber indure it, but being of a base and servile condition, he d' th
 easily indure the yoke of servitude, and yet I am too blame so
 to thinke, for if he had stubbornly disobeyed my commande-
 ment, how could I otherwisse judge, but that in pride and dis-
 daine he thought himselfe too good to be at any direction : some
 servants would in such a case have given me many soule woordes,
 and rather malepartly set me at nought, and forsake my service,
 then so have indured the scarms of disgrace that he hath done by
 this means : but hereby it is evident that love thinks nothing
 too much. Well Will quoth she, the vertue of thy mind shall
 breed better thoughts in thy Mistris, which shall make her re-
 ward thy good will in a large measure : see see how heafely he
 goes through his worke : how handsomely he handles every
 thing : and surely well may I suppose that he which is so faith-
 full a servant, would certainly prove a kind husband : for this
 hath bene no tender trial of his constant heart. Well that hea-
 ring the maid any some other of the servants talke wth him,
 the lending a heedfull ears to their speech, heard them speake to
 this purpose : good Lord William quoth one, I marvell much
 that you being of so good parents and having so little a truble to
 serve, will be thus used at her hands : it were so much if you
 were but this day bound prentice, to be set to such slavery : I
 sweare quoth another, I have thre times longer to serve then
 you and if she should bid me doe as thou dost, I would bid her
 doe it herselfe with a morin : He tell you what quoth the thirde,
 He be plaine and use but few woordes, but I would see my faire
 Mistris with the black Devill before I would doe it.

Well doe I my masters quoth William, you are made merry
 wags but I take it as great labour done me by my Mistris
 thus to imploy me, that the why I might have knowledge how
 to decke up a kitchen that mornig wth a bad bus wisse to my
 wiffe I know how to instruct her in household affaires : I care
 for no such labour said he.

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Their spittels hearing all, said nothing, but determine to try them all what they would doe ere it were long: wherefore being now greatly affectioned to her man, couered her love with such discretion, that none could perceiue it: For Master Doctor being newly returned, came thither puffing and blowing saying, he was neuer so seruised since he was borne; quoth he, since I was here, I haue at least riden an hundred miles with an arrant knabe that carried me I know not whether: he rode with me out of Bishops-gate south right as far as Ware, and then compassing all Suffolke, and Norfolke, he brought me backe againe through Essex, and so conducted me to Black-will in Middlesex to seeke out my Lady Swinborne, my good Lady and spittels: at last I sawe it was no such matter, but the villaine being disposed to mocke me, brought me to a woman Egyptian, as blacke as the great Idoll, who lay in child-bed and was but deliuered of a child of her owne colour: to the which in despite of my heere they made me be God-father, where it cost me three crownes, and I was glad I so escaped, and who was the author of all this deceit but Master Nevell: but if ever I come to giue him whiffke, if I make him not haue the squit for fife daies, count me the veriest dunce that ever woꝛe beluet cap.

Master Doctor quoth she, I am very soyle you were so dely, notwithstanding to make Master Nevell and your friends I will bestow a breakfast upon you to morrow, if it please you to accept my offer. Faire Willdow quoth he, neuer a one in the world would haue byged me to be friends with him but your selfe, and I am contented for your sake to doe it: and thus till next morning he took his leave.

Next day as soone as she was up she called up one of her men saying, Sirra run quickly, take a basket and fetch me a bushel of opfers from Billingsgate; the fellow crouching said, I pray you send another, for I am baste in the shop.

Why knabe quoth she, Ile haue the goe, quoth he, make a iudge of some other and not of me, for to be plaine I will not goe. So quoth she, call me Richard hither: when he came, she desired him very gently to fetch her a bushel of opfers.

Why Mistress quoth he, my friends set me not here to be a Porter to fetch Officers from Billingsgate. I tell you true, I scozne you should require any such matter of me. Is it true quoth she: very well, I will remember this when you forget it. Thus when she had tried them all, she called her man William, saying: Sirra goodman scullian take the great close basket, and fetch me a bushell of officers from Billingsgate, & look you hurry not. I will forsooth spiers quoth he, & presently away he went with such good will as none could go with better, being marvellous glad that she would request any thing at his hands.

When he was come againe, with a smiling countenance she said, what William art thou come already: it is well done, I pray thee: bring some of them up into my Closet, that I may taste how good they be: yes forsooth quoth William, and after her he went, the Maids likewise carried up a couple of white manchets, and with a Diaper napkin covered the table. Now Maids quoth she, fetch me a pint of the best red wine: I will forsooth said the Maids.

Spieris said William, if it please you, I will open your Officers for you: I pray you so quoth she: then taking a towel on his arme, and a knife in his hand, being glad he had gotten so good an office, shewed himselfe so feat and expert in his occupation, that he opened as fast as his Mistress could eat.

Believe me William quoth she, you are nimble at an officer, and quick in carbing up shell fish, though dull in casting up accounts, I pray thee tell me how many shels are in thine and thirtie officers: Threescore and six said William: you are a witty youth quoth she, if thy speech be true it must then needs follow that I have eaten thre and thirtie officers, have also devoured threescore and six shels, which is too much for one womans breakfast in a cold morning in conscience, and therefore I had need quickly to give over, least I break my belly with officer shels: whereupon she cald her maid, saying: come hither loane, and bring me a goblet of wine that I may wash Williams shels from my stomack.

Indeed spieris quoth he, if you take my words so, I spoke without harm: it is true quoth she, for they are alwaies with-

out that are neuer within, and either thy knowledge is small, or thy blindness great, or yfster shels very soft, that I should eat so many and neuer sale one: so; surely, if there be thyde- scoze and fy yfster shels in thyre and thirty yfsters, there must needs be as many moze in thyre and thirty yfsters: and to as- firme my words true, behold here the shels that were out of the yfsters, now shew me those that were within the yfsters. William seeing his yfstris thus pleasant, began to gather some courage to himselfe, and therefore thus uttered his mind: Deare yfstris, needs must I pzebe both blinde in sight, and dull in concept, while your faire eyes that gibe light to the shewne obscure themselves, and dark the glozy of their shine, when I seek to receiue comfort thereby: and the want of your good will makes my wits so weak, that like a barren tree it yelds no fruit at all.

True quoth she: thyre times seuen is iust fye and twenty: but tell me what is the cause that mooues thee to desire my fa- uour, and to request my good will: Good yfstris pardon me quoth he, and I will tell you: whereupon she replied, saying, trust me William, my pardon is easier to be gotten then the popes, and therefore be not afraid to pzeceed. Why then my deare yfstris, seeing you haue so graciously granted liberty to my hearts advocate, to pleade at the bar of your beauty, and to open the bill of my complaint: know this, that hope against hope perswaded me to labour for your love, that gaining the same I might be called a blessed man by winning such a wife.

What will quoth she, art thou not ashamed, that such a youth as thy selfe, a lad, a stripling, a pzentice boy, should in the ig- nozance of his age, cumber himselfe with the cares of the world, and wantonly take a wife, that knowes not how to guide him- selfe: I tell thee fellow, first learne to thziue, and then wiue. O my deare yfstris, said William, let not pleasant youth which is the glozy of many be a disgrace to me: neither with- out triall deere yfstris disable not my manhood, which now I take to be in his chaste prime.

Day quoth she, if thou wilt haue thy manhood tried, prepare thy selfe for the warres, and purchase honour by beating down

our countries foes, and so shalt thou weare the golden wreath of honour for ever. In troth Spikris quoth he, I had rather have my manhood tried in another place. Pfaltz where quoth she: by my troth said he, in your soft bed, which is far better then the hard field: why thou bold knabe quoth she, it were a good deed to make you a bird of Bydelwell, for your faintness. Wellabe me Spikris quoth he, I am sozie you should be offended, rather will I get me into a cozper and die through disoaine, then stay in your sight and griebe you: and with that away he went. She seeing him so hastily depart, called him againe saying: William come hither, turne againe you saint hearted coward, what art thou afraid of Bydelwell: use thy selfe well, and I will be thy friend: the young man that with these words was rebited like a sick man out of a dead sound, turning merrily to his Spikris, gabe her a kisse, saying: on that condition I gibe you this. How now sir quoth she, I called you not back to be so bold: in good sadnesse do so againe, and I will gibe you on the eare.

Pay Spikris quoth he, if that be all the danger, take then another, and lay me on the eare (so I may lay you on the lips) and spare not: nay then said his Spikris, I feare my too much softnesse makes thee saucy, therefore for feare thou shouldest catch a surfet, I charge thee on paine of lobes displeasure, to get you downe about your businesse, and see that all things be in readinesse against my friends come: why goe you not: what stand you in a maze: pack I say and be gone.

And thus my deare Spikris quoth he, parts my soule out of Paradise, and my heart from heavens ioy: no withstanding you command and I consent and alwayes let me finde sadour, as I am forwarde to follow your precepts, and therewithall away he went.

He was no longer gone, but she having determined what to do, sent for her friends, at what time the Alderman coming thither, and spacker Doctor, he had also invited spacker Peachie and his wife, and with them came gallant young Bebill.

When they were all set at the table, after they had well tasted of the delicacies there prepared: Spikris Farmer told them for

two causes she had requested their companie that day to be satisfi-
fied: the one was, that master Doctor and young Bebill might
be made friends: and the other that in their sight she might
make her selfe sure to her husband, that they might be witnes
of their volwes.

The companie said, they should be very glad to see so good a
wozke perfozmed: whereupon she calling up all her men ser-
vants, spake to this purpose. My god friends and kinde neigh-
bours, because I will have none ignorant, of that which is to
be effected, I have presumed to bring my servants into your
presence, that they also may heare recozd of the reconciliation
betwixt Master Doctor and Master Bebill, and therefore my
Masters, if your hearts consent to an unitie, declare it by sha-
king hands, that if may not bee said, that my house was the
boder of bzailes, and on that condition I drink to you both:
the Gentlemen both pledged her, and according to her request
ended the quarrell.

When this was done, she merrily told them, that among her
men she had chosen her Master: albeit quoth she, this matter
may seeme strange in your sight, and my fancie too much ruled
by follie, yet this my determination I purpose by Gods grace
to follow, hoping it shall breed no offence to any in the compa-
nie, in such a chance to make mine own choice.

Her man Richard, & the rest that supposed themselves most
graced by her favours, began at this speech to look something
peart, and all the companie held opinion that she boze the best
minde to the sozeman of her shop: for first of all turning her
speech to him, she said: Richard come hither, thou hast greatly
to praise God for making thee so proper a man, thou art a neat
fellow, and hast excellent qualities, for thou art not proud, nor
high minded, but hast a care to thy businesse, and to keepe the
shop: and because I have committed great matters into thy
hands, I pray thee go do home and look to thy charge, for I have
nothing moze to say to thee at this time.

The fellow at these wordes lukt as blew under the eyes, as a
kate Codhead under the gill: and going downe the faire
shook his head like one that had a flea in his eare.

Now come hither John quoth she, I must needs say thou art come of good parents, & thou knowest they bound thee not Prentice to fetch of fiers from Billingsgate like a Doxter, nor to have thy daintie fingers set to dudgeerie, therefore good John get you downe after your fellow, for here is nothing for you to doe at this time.

Her man William, that all this while was playing the scullion in the kitchen was then sent for, who coming before the companie with his face all begrimed, and his clothes all greasie, his spirts spake in this manner. What a slovenlike knave comes here? were not this a fit man think ye to be sparker of this house and Lord of my lobe?

Now by my troth said spirts Peachie, I never saw a more unhandsome fellow in my life: see how hee stinckes of kitchen stuffe: what a face and neck hath he? a bodie might set Lakes in the very durt of his lips. I thinke in my conscience thre pound of Soap, & a barrell of Water is little enough to scower him cleane: the like stouts used all the rest at poyse William, to which his spirts made this answer.

Good Lord my masters, how much do your sights deceive you: in my sight he looks the loveliest of them all, having a pleasant countenance, and a good grace, and so pleasing is he in every part to my sight, that surely if hee will accept of mee for his wife, I will not refuse him for my husband: her friends looking one upon another, and marvelling at her speech, thought verily she had but iested, till such time she took him by the hand, and gave him a kisse.

Whereupon William spake thus unto her: faire spirts, seeing it hath pleased you, beyond my desert, and contrarie to my expectation to make me so gracious an offer, wortlie I were to like a beggar, if I should refuse such a treasure: and thereupon I give you my heart and my hand: and I receive it quoth she, for it is thy vertue and true humilitie that hath conquered my former conceits, for few men would have wonne a wife as thou didst. So, how did he win you said Harrie Bevil: by fetching of fiers from Billingsgate quoth she, which I know you would not have done, seeing all the rest of my servants

servants scorn'd to do it at my request: So bad quoth Harrie, by
fetching of officers: I would have fetcht officers, and muskies,
and cockles too, to have got so good a bargain.

The Alderman and the Doctor lookt strangely at this mat-
ter: nevertheless seeing it was not to be helpt, they commen-
ded her choice, saying: it was better for a man in such a case, to
be favourable in a womans eyes, then to hate much gold in his
coffers. Then did she set her black man by her white side, and
calling the rest of her servants (in the sight of her friends) she
made them do reverence unto him, whom they for his by judge-
rie scorned so much before: so the breakfast ended, she wold
them a'l next morning, to beare him companie to Church, a-
gainst which time, William was so daintily triched up, that all
those which beheld him, confess he was a most comely, trim,
and proper man, and after they were married, they lived long
together in joy and prosperous estate.

Harrie Nevill became so grieved hereat, that some after he
went from Master Peachie, and dwelt with a Goldsmith, and
when he had bene a while there, committing a fault with his
Masters daughter, he departed thence and became a Barber-
Surgeon: but there his spirits and he were so familiar, that it
nothing pleased his Master, so that in halfe a yeare he sought a
new service and became a Cook: and then a Camfetmaker
dwelling with master Baltazar, where after he grew some-
thing cunning, having done some thew'd turne in that place,
he forsooke that service: and became a Smith, where their
maide Iudeth fell so highly in love with him that he for pure
good will which he bore her, thewed his Master a faire paire of
heelles: and then practised to be a Joyner, where he continued
till hee heard his Father was sick, who for his abominable
swearing had cast him from his labour, but after he had long
miss him, and that he could heare no tidings of his untoward
and wilde wanton Sonne, hee sent into divers places to en-
quire for him, and at last one of this servants lighted where he
was, by which meanes he came to his father againe: who in
a few yeares after, leaving his life, this Sonne Harrie be-
came Lord of all his lands: and coming upon a day to Lon-

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don with his men waiting upon him, he caused a great dinner to be prepared, and sent for all those that had been his masters and mistresses: who being come, he thus began to commune with them my good friends, I understand that a certaine kinsman of mine was sometimes your servant, and as I take it, his name was Harrie Nevell: who as I heare, used himselfe but homely toward you, being a very wilde and ungracions fellow, the report whereof hath bene some griefe to me, being one that alwayes wisht him well: wherefore looke what damage he hath done you I pray you tell me, and I am content with reason to see you satisfied, so that he may have your labours to be made a freeman.

Surely sir said Peachie for mine own part I can say little, save only that he was so full of love, that he would selde come follow his businesse at his occupation: but that matter I freely forgive and will not be his hindrance in any thing. Myrry sir said the Goldsmith, I cannot say so: for truly sir he plaid the theefe in my house, robbing my daughter of her maidenhead, wherby he now you is ever able to recompence, though you gave me a thousand pound, yet I thank God she is married and doth well. I am the gladder of that said the Gentleman, and so that fault I will give toward her maintenance forty pound.

The Barber hearing him say so, told him that hee had injured him as much, and had bene more hold a great deale then became him, whereby (quoth he) I was made a scozne among my neighbours. Thus you speake of ill will said the Gentleman, if your wife will say so I will believe it: to which words the woman made this answer. Good sir, will you believe me there was never so much matter, the youth was an honest faire conditioned young man, but my husband bearing a naughty jealous minde, grew suspicious without cause, onely because he saw that his servant was kinde and gentle unto me, and would have done any thing that I requested: notwithstanding I have had many a fowle word for his sake, and carried some bitter blowes too, but all is one, I am not the first woman that hath suffered injury without cause: alas good soule said the Gentleman, I am right sorry for thy griefe, and
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to make the amends. I will bestow on the twentieth Angels, so your husband will not take it in badgin; the woman with a low curle gave him thanks, saying: truly Sir I am highly beholding to you, and truly I shall love you the better because you are so like him. The smith likewise for his maide said all that he might, to whose marriage the Gentleman gave twentieth pound: thus after hee had fully ended with them all, hee made himselfe knowne unto them, at what time they all reioyced greatly, and then after he had bestowed on them a sumptuous dinner, they all departed. And ever after, this Gentleman kept men of all these occupations in his own house, himself being as good a workman as any of them all.

CHAP. X.

Of the greene king of S. Martins and his merry feats.



Here dwelt in S. Martins a iollis Scholler. her, hee was commonly called the Greene king, for that upon a time he shewed himselfe before King Henry, with all his men clothed in greene, he himselfe being suted all in greene & fatten. He was a man very humorous, of small stature, but most courageous, and continually he used the Fencing-schools when he went abroad, he carried alwayes a two handed sword on his shoulder, or under his arme: he kept continually thirtie or forty servants, and kept in his house most bountifull fare: you shall understand that in his young yeares, his father dying, left him a good portion, so that he was in great credit and estimation among his neighbours, and that which made him more happie, was this, that God blest him with the gift of a good wife, who was a very comely young woman, and therewithall very careful for his commoditie: but he whose minde was altogether of merriment, little respected his profit in regard of his pleasure: insomuch that through his wastefull expence he brought povertie upon himselfe ere he was aware, so that he could not do as he was accustomed: which when his daily com-
panions

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panions perceribed, they by little and little shund his company, and if at any time he passed by them, perhaps they would lend him a nod, or giue him a good morrow and make no more a doe.

And is it true quoth the Greene king, both want of money part good company, or is my countenance chaanged, that they do not know me? I haue seene the day when neuer a knabe of them all, but would haue made much of my dog for my sake, and haue giuen me twenty salutations on a Sunday morning, for one pottle pint of Muscadine: and what, hath a thyrd bare cloake scarce a good fellowship? why though I haue not my wonted habites, I haue still the same heart: and though my money be gone, my mind is not altered: why then what Jacks are they to reiect me? I, no, I finde my wiues tale true, for then she was wont to say, Husband, husband, refraine these trencher flies, these smooth faced flatterers, that like vpones liue upon the hony of your labour and sucke away the sweetnes of your substance. I wis, I wis, if once you should come in want, there is not the best of them all, that would trust you for fengroates: by which saying she lay my life she is a witch, for it is come as fast to pas as Darlins prophesie, I would the other day but haue borrowed 12 d. & I tride 13 scindes, & went without it: it being so, let them go hang themselves for I wil into Flanders, that is flat, and leaue these flaves to their ferbell conditions, tohers I will try if a firkin barreil of better be worth a pot of strong bere, and a loade of Holland cheie, better then a gallon of Charnico: and if it be by the crosse of this sword I will neuer staine my credit with such a base commodity againe.

With that he went to his wife, saying; woman dost thou heare? I pray thee looke well to thy busines till I come againe: for whye to dye away melancholy, I am minded to walke a mile or twaine: but husband quoth she, were you there where you lay your plate to payne? Spzay you is it not misused? and is it safe? how an quoth he I was there, and it is safe I warrant thee, for euer comming into thy hands againe, thou knowest I borrowed but twentie marke on it, and they haue sold it for twentie pound: tis gone wise, tis gone. O husband quoth she, what hard fortune haue we to be so ill dealt withall? and therewithall she wept, he quoth he leaue thy weeping, hang it up, let it goe, the best is, it

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never cost us groats: were our friends living that gave us that, they would give us more; but in vaine it is to mourn for a matter that cannot be helpt, farewell wife, looke to thy house, and let the boyes plie their worke. The greene king having thus taken his leave, went toward Billings-gate, of purpose to take Barge: where by the way he met with Anthoni now now the sickin fiddler of Finchlane: What master quoth he, well met, I pray with you are you walking? a how doe all our friends in saint Martins? Will you not have a crash ere you goe?

He saith Anthoni quoth he, thou knowest I am a good fellow, and one that hath not been a niggard to thee at any time, therefore if thou wilt bestow any musick on me doe, and if it please God that I return safely from Flanders againe, I will pay thee well for thy paines; but now I have no money for musick: Goodmings quoth Anthoni, whether you have money or no, you shall have musick, I doe not allways request coine of my friends for my earning: what, you are not every body, and seeing you are going beyond sea, I will bestow a pinte of wine on you at the Salutation: saith thou so Anthoni quoth he, in good sooth I will not refuse thy curtesie, and with that they stept into the Tavern, where Anthoni cald for wine: and drawing forth his fiddle began to play, and after he had scrapt halfe a score lessons he began to sing.

When should a man shew himselfe gentle and kinde,
When should a man comfort the sorrowfull minde?

O Anthoni now, now, now.

O Anthoni now, now, now.

When is the best time to drinke with a friend?

When is it meetest my money to spend?

O Anthoni now, now, now.

O Anthoni now, now, now.

When goes the King of good fellows away?

That so much delighted in dauncing and play?

O Anthoni now, now, now.

O Anthoni now, now, now.

And when should I bid my Master farewell?

Whose bonitie and curtesie so did excell?

O Anthoni now, now, now.

O Anthoni now, now, now.

Loe ye now Passer quoth he, this song haue I made for your sake, and by the grace of God when you are gone I will sing it e-
 very Sunday morning vnder your wiues window, that she may
 know we dranke together ere you parted: I pray the do so said the
 Greene king, and do my commendations vnto her: and tell her at
 my returne I hope to make merry.

Thus after they had made an end of their wine, and paid for
 the hot, Anthony putting up his fiddle departed seeking to
 change musicke for money: while the Greene king of Saint Mar-
 tins sailed in Gravesend Barge. But Anthony in his absence
 sung this song so often in Saint Martins, that thereby he purchast
 a name which he neuer lost till his dying day, for euer after men
 called him nothing but Anthony now now.

But it is to be remembred that the Green kings wife became so
 carefull in her businesse, and governed her selfe with such li-
 bome in all her affaires, that during her husbands absence she
 did not onely pay many of his debts, but also got into her house
 ebery thing that was necessary to be had, the which her diligence
 won such commendations, that her credit in all places was verte
 good, and her gaines (through Gods blessing) came so flowing in,
 that befoze her husband came home, she was had in good reputa-
 tion with her neighbours: and habing no need of any of their fa-
 vours, ebery one was ready to proffer her curtesie, saying good
 neighbour if you want any thing tell us, and looke what friend
 shipp we may doe you, be sure you shall find it.

A neighbour quoth she, I know your kindnesse, and may speake
 thereof by experience: well may I compare you to him that would
 neuer bid any man to dinner, but at two of the clocke in the af-
 ter noone, when he was assured they had filld their bellies befoze,
 and that they would not touch his meate, except for manners sake:
 wherfore for my part I will giue you thanks, when I take be-
 nefit of your proffer.

Why neighbour we speake for good will quoth they: tis true
 quoth she, and so say they that call for a fresh quart to bestow on
 a drunken man, when they know it would doe him as much good
 in his bootes as in his belly.

Well neighbour quoth they, God be thanked that you haue no

cause to use friends : Mary Amen quoth he, for if I had I thinke I should finde few here, These and the like gratings were often betwixt her and her neighbours.

¶ Till at last her husband came home, & to his great comfort found his estate so good, that he had great cause to praise God for the same, for a warme purse is the best medicine for a cold heart that may be. The greene king therefore bearing himselfe as brave as ever he did, having sware himselfe a faithfull companion to his two hand-sworde, would never goe without it.

¶ Now when his auncient acquaintance saw him againe so gallant, every one was ready to curry favour with him, and many would proffer him the wine. And where before they were wont scornfully to thrust him next the kennell, and nothing to respect his poverty, they gave him now the upper hand in every place, saluting him with cap and knee : but he remembering how feightly they set by him in his neede, did now as feightly esteeme their flattery, saying : I cry you mercy, me thinkes I have seene your face, but I never knew you for my friend. So quoth one, I dwell at Aldersgate, and am your nere neighbour, and so much the worse said the Greene king : wherefore quoth the other ? Because said he, I thinke the place meete for an honestest man. I trust he said his neighbour, you know no hurt by me.

¶ For any goodnes quoth the greene king, but I remember you are he, or one of them of whom once I would have borrowed sottie pence, yet could not get it, if thereby I might have saved fifty lires : therefore goodman hog, goodman cog, or goodman dog, chuse you which, scrape no acquaintance of me, nor come any more in my company, I would advise you, least with my long sworde I crop your sideways legs, and make you stand like Saint Martins begger upon two hilts. The fellow hearing him say so, went his wayes, and never durst speake to him afterward.

How the Greene King went a walking with his wife, and got Anthony now now to play before them, in which sort hee went with her to Briskow.



The Greene king being a man that was much giben to goe abzoab, his wife upon a time, thus made her mone to him: good Lord husband quoth she, I thinke you are the unkindest man alive, for as often as you walke abzoab, you were neuer the man that would take me in your company: it is no small grieffe to me, while I sit doating at home, ebery Sunday and Holy-day, to see how kindly other men walke with their wives, and lovingly beare them company into the fields, that thereby they may have some recreation after their weekes weary toyle: this pleasure have they for their paines, but I poore soule could never get such cartesse at your hands: either it must needs be that you love me but little, or else you are a hamed of my company, and I tell you true you have no reason either for the one or the other. Certainly wife said he, I should be sorrie to drub any such conceit into thy head, but seeing you and your selfe grieved in this kinde, let me intreate thee to be content, and when thou shalt perceibe that my love is not small toward thee, nor my liking so bad to be ashamed to have thee goe by my side, Thursday next is Saint James day, against which time prepare thy selfe to goe with me to the faire, where by the grace of God I have bestow a fat pig upon thee, and there I meane to be merry: and doubt not but I will walke with thee till thou art weary of walking. She quoth he, I should never be weary of your company, though I went with you to the Moles end: God a mercy for that wife quoth he, but so doing I doubt I should trie you a very good soote-woman, or a bad flatterer.

Thus it past till Thursday came, in the meane season meeting with two or thre other thowmakers, he asked them if they would walke with him and his wife to Saint James faire: What wee will with all our hearts: but will you not like flinchers like from your wozes quoth he: To that (they said) if they did they would forseit a gallon of wine.

Each said the græne king, talke not to me of a gallon of wine, but will you bee bound in twenty pound a peece to perfozme it? Why what needs hands for such a matter quoth they? we trust you will take our wordes for moze then that. The masters said the græne king, the worlde is growne to that passe, that wordes are counted but wind, and I will trust you as little on your word as Long Peg on her honesty: therefore if you will not be bound, chuse, I will make no account of your company. The men hearing him say so, knowing him to be a man of a merry mind, after their wits were all wast with wine, to the Scriveners they went, and bound themselves in twenty pound according to his request.

They had no sooner made an end of this merry match, but as they stumbled into another Taberne, who should they meet but Anthony now now: who aske as he spide the græne king smiling with a wyle mouth, he forfully embraced him with both his hands, saying: what my good master well met, when came you from the other side the water: by my troth you are welcome with all my heart. God a mercy good Anthony quoth he, but how chance you come no moze into Saint Martins?

Wasser quoth he, you know what a dainty commoditie I made at your parting to Grabensdubarge: Yes mary said the græne king what of that: why quoth he by singing it under your window, all the merry shewmakers in Saint Martins tooke it by the toe: and now they have made it even as common as a printed Ballad, and I have gotten such a name by it, that now I am called nothing but Anthony now now.

Why Wasser ile tell you, it hath made me as well acquainted in Cheapeside, as the cat in the creame pan: for as soone as the Goldsmiths wives spide me, and as I passe along by the Marchants daughters, the apes will laugh at me as passes: besides that all the little boyes in the streets will run after me like a sort of Christs. Anthony now now sayes one: Anthony now now another: good Lord, good Lord, you never knewe the like: heare ye master: I am sure that song hath gotten me since you went, moze pence then your wife hath pence: and seeing you are come againe, I will make the second part very shortly.

But

But hearest thou Anthony said he if thou wilt come to me on Saint James his day in the morning, thou shalt walke with us to the faire, for I meane to make merry with my wife that day: Master quoth he, by cock and pie, I will not misse you. And thus after they had made Anthony drinke, he departed.

Saint James his day at last being come, he cal'd up his wife betimes, and had her make her ready, if she would to the faire: who being willingly did so: and in the meane space her husband went to his cubbert, and tooke thereout forty faire soveraignes, and going secretly to one of his servants, he willed him to take good heed of his house, and to see that his fellows plide their businesse: for quoth he, I goe with my wife to Saint James faire, and perhaps you shall not see us againe this fortnight: Well Master said the fellow, I will have regard to your business. I warrant you. Wherewith he cal'd his wife, saying: come wife will you walke: with a good will husband quoth she, I am ready: with that Anthony now now, began to scrape on his treable viall, and playing a huntup, said good morrow master good morrow, soure a clocke and a faire morning.

Well said Anthony quoth he, we be ready for the company, therefore along before, and let us heare what musicke you can make. His husband quoth she, take not the fiddler with you for shame: I shal be content quoth he, Musicke makes a sad mind merrie: so away they went, and at Saint Giles in the fields he met the rest of his company: well found my masters quoth he, I perceive you have a care of your bonds: so away they went with the fiddler before them, & the Greene king with his two band sword marching like a master of fence going to play his prize: when they came to the high way turning downe to Westminster, his wife said: ysaith husband we shall come to the faire too soone, for Gods sake let us walke a little further. Content wife quoth he, whereupon they went to Newington, where they walke their fall, and had good sport bytumbling on the greene grasse, where Anthony brake his fiddle, for which cause the Greene king gave him ten shillings, and willed him to goe back and buy a new one.

And now my friends quoth he, if you will walke with me to Wainford I will bestow your dinner upon you, because I have a mind

a minde to walke with my wife & they were content, but by that time they came there, the woman began to wax somewhat wearie, & because the day was farre spent befoze they had dined, they lay there all night: where he told his friends that the next morning he would bring his wife to see the George in Colebrook, and then would turne home: but to be wife, when he came there, he told them flatly he meant to goe to Saint James his faire at Wythow: for quoth he my wife hath longed to walke with me, and I meane to give her walking, woꝝke enough. But as quoth they, we meane not to goe thither: befoze God but you shall quoth he, & sozest your hand. The men seeing no remedy, went along to Wythow on foote, whereby the poore woman became so weary, that an hundred times she wisht she had not come south of downe: but from that time till she died, she never intreated her husband to walke with her againe.

An hundred merry seates more did he, which in this place is too much to be set downe. For afterward Tom Drum coming from the winning of Buffleborow, came to dwell with him, where he discoursed all his adventures in the wars: and according to his old coggng humoz, attributed other mens deeds to himselfe, for quoth he, it was I that killed the first Scot in the battell, yet I was content to give the honour thereof to Sir Michell Musgrave, notwithstanding quoth he, all men knowes that this hand of mine kild Tom Trotter that terrible traytor, which in despite of us, kept the Castell so long, & at last as he cowardly sozlowke it, and secretly sought to flye, with this blade of mine I brought him like a roasting pigge. Hozerob, Parson Ribble had never made himselfe so famous but by my meanes. These were his daily haunts, till his lies were so manifest that he could no longer stand in them. But after the Crane king had long used a gallant house-keeper, at last being aged and blinde, he dyed, after he had done many good deedes to divers poore men.

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